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# THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Illustrated Story of Its Adoption  
With the Biographies and Portraits of the  
Signers and of the Secretary  
of the Congress

BY  
WILLIAM H. MICHAEL



Washington : : Government Printing Office : : 1904

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## PREFACE.

This volume was prepared primarily as an aid to those in charge of the exhibit of the Department of State at Expositions in explaining that part of the exhibit relating to the Declaration of Independence. The panel of the exhibit devoted to this interesting document contains a likeness of Jefferson, who wrote the immortal document, a picture of the house in which he wrote it, the desk on which he wrote it, a picture of Independence Hall in which it was debated and adopted, portraits of the committee charged with preparing the draft, and portraits of all the signers.

All the illustrations in the panel are given in this book, with some additional ones, including a facsimile of the broadside copy signed by John Hancock, President of the Congress, for and on behalf of the members of the Congress, attested by Charles Thomson, Secretary, and a portrait and biographical sketch of the latter.

The series of portraits of the signers is complete and their artistic excellence will be recognized.

So far as is known there was no copy of the Declaration made for "printer's copy." It is believed that the

copy in the hands of Secretary Thomson at the close of the session on the evening of July 4 went to the official printer, John Dunlap, and was used by him as copy. The next day, in making up the journal, the Secretary wafered in a blank space left for this purpose a copy of the first broadside print. A facsimile of this print is given on page 11. The copy from which this facsimile was made is in the rough journal now deposited in the Manuscript Division, Congressional Library.

Copies of this broadside were sent out in compliance with the resolution of the Congress "to the several assemblies, conventions, or councils of safety, and to the several commanding officers of the Continental troops," and "proclaimed in each of the United States, and at the head of the Army," and sent to the counties of Bucks, Chester, Northampton, Lancaster, and Berks, with the request that it be published at the places where the election for delegates was to be held. Doubtless a copy of this broadside was read by John Nixon, on behalf of William Dewees, sheriff of Philadelphia, July 8, at the celebration of independence held at the State House. It is also probable that a copy of this edition was sent to Gen. George Washington, who, on July 9, ordered it to be proclaimed at the head of the Continental regiments.

Other editions differing somewhat in style were printed by Dunlap to meet the demand for the

Declaration. He printed a few copies on vellum, one of which he presented to David Rittenhouse, who was vice-president of the Council of Safety.

Two editions are known to have been printed in Boston in July, 1776. An edition was also printed at Salem, Mass., in the same month and year. The demand for copies of the Declaration was very general, thus showing how popular it was. Throughout the Colonies, especially in Massachusetts, the Declaration was read by preachers from their pulpits; and by every means possible it was placed within reach of the people, who were eager to read it or hear it read, and who gave of their treasure and blood to uphold it.

January 18, 1777, the Congress ordered "That an authentic copy of the Declaration of Independence, with the names of the Members of Congress subscribing the same, be sent to each of the United States, and that they be desired to have the same put upon record." This seems to be the first time copies were sent out with the names of the signers attached.

The secret journal, under date of August 2, 1776, says: "The Declaration of Independence being engrossed and compared at the table, was signed by the members." Yet it is certain that all did not sign at this time. In fact, Thornton did not attach his signature till in November, 1776, and Colonel McKean is authority for the statement that he did not sign till in 1781. The latter's name does not appear in the

first broadside, on which the names of 55 signers appear.

The vote on Richard Henry Lee's resolution respecting independence was taken on July 2 and failed of unanimity, though carried by a big majority. All of New England, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia voted for it. South Carolina and Pennsylvania voted against it. One of Delaware's delegates, Colonel McKean, voted for it and the other, George Read, against it. The New York delegates refrained from voting, for want of instructions to do so. Thus 9 out of 13 colonies voted unanimously for the resolution.

During the postponement of a day Caesar Rodney came in response to a call from Colonel McKean, riding 80 miles on horseback, and on the next ballot the two carried Delaware for the resolution. The popular sentiment in Pennsylvania was for independence, and organized conditions so changed suddenly that Franklin, Morton, and Wilson voted for, Willing and Humphreys against the resolution, while Dickinson and Morris stayed away from the Congress and in this way refrained from voting. When the final vote was taken three delegates only voted against the resolution, viz: Willing and Humphreys of Pennsylvania, and Read of Delaware, the New York delegates still refraining from voting. On the 9th, however, the New York delegates were authorized by their

State to sign, thus making the vote unanimous so far as the States were concerned.

On the 19th of July the Congress ordered the Declaration "passed on the 4th, fairly engrossed on parchment with the title and style of 'The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America'; and that the same, when engrossed, be signed by every member of Congress."

Following this in the Journal under date August 2 it reads, "The Declaration of Independence being engrossed, and compared at the table, was signed by the members." It does not say how many of the members signed at this time. Certain it is that the 56 signatures were not attached on this date. It appears certain that no one signed on the 4th except John Hancock for and on behalf of the Congress, and only a part on August 2. It is quite certain that George Wythe signed about August 27; Richard Henry Lee, Elbridge Gerry, and Oliver Wolcott in September; Thornton in November, and Colonel McKean says he did not sign till in 1781. Thus 6 names were attached after August 2, making it more than probable that 50 signed on the latter date.

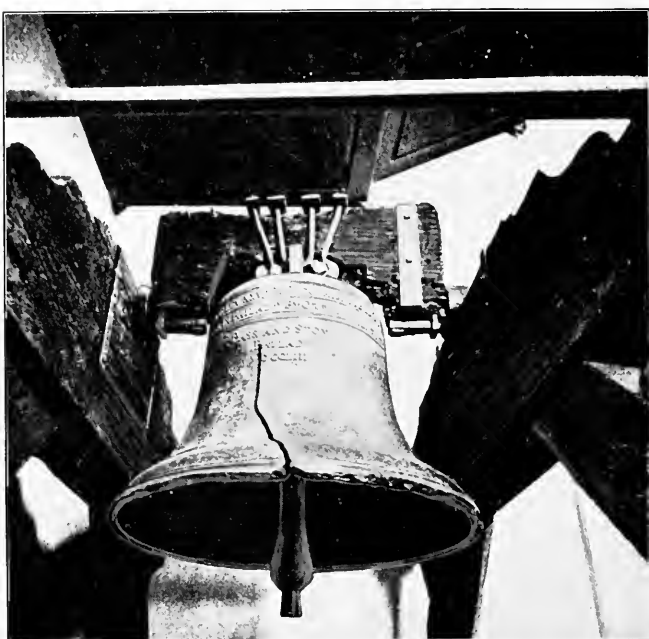
The New York delegates of course did not sign on July 4, for the reason they had no authority to vote for the Declaration or to sign it. Thornton, Rush, Clymer, Smith, Taylor, and Ross could not have signed on that date for the good reason that they were

not yet members of the Congress. Clinton, Alsop, R. R. Livingston, Wisner, Willing, Humphreys, and Rogers were members on the 4th but never did sign.

Samuel Chase, who was absent on important business in Maryland, wrote to John Adams under date of July 5, inquiring, "How shall I transmit to posterity that I gave my assent?" Adams answered on the 9th that "As soon as an American seal is prepared I conjecture the Declaration will be subscribed by all the members, which will give you the opportunity you wish for, etc."

Elbridge Gerry also was anxious on this point, and wrote to both John and Samuel Adams under date of July 21, from Kingsbridge, N. Y., desiring to know if they could not sign his name as his proxy. This, with other corroborating facts, it would seem, fully supports the conclusion that no member of the Congress signed on the 4th except John Hancock.





LIBERTY BELL



LIBERTY BELL

# THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

ILLUSTRATED STORY OF ITS ADOPTION, WITH THE  
BIOGRAPHIES AND PORTRAITS OF THE SIGNERS,  
AND OF THE SECRETARY OF THE CONGRESS.

By WILLIAM H. MICHAEL.

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## THE DECLARATION INEVITABLE.

The Declaration of Independence was inevitable. It was forced into existence by circumstances and conditions over which no one man or set of men had control. Indeed, it came about despite opposition of strong men, who later yielded to the irresistible demand for it, and became its most ardent supporters. Jefferson wrote it, but he wrote only as the amanuensis of overwhelming events. He put into form ideas that had found expression time and again in the colonies. He caught inspiration from sturdy New England, from the Middle Colonies, and from the Sunny South. The air was surcharged with independence, and every man with a freeman's soul within him who breathed it became a patriot, ready to subscribe to the declaration, "Give me liberty or give me death." Yet, not

The air surcharged  
with independence.

till blood was shed did absolute independence rise defiant. First in New England, then in the South, and then in the Middle Colonies, the blood of patriots enriched the ground and the seed of liberty took deep root. The plant of liberty lifted its head and became a tree. And so it has been since. The roots of this giant tree have been fed by human blood, until now beneath its sheltering greatness are gathered more than eighty million people, enjoying the most perfect independence known to man.

Criticisms on the  
Declaration.

Commanding critics have said that the draft of the Declaration as it came from the pen of Jefferson lacked originality; that every idea in it had become hackneyed, and that others had given expression to the same ideas in very similar words. The great John Adams was one of these critics. All such criticisms are puerile and in some degree malicious. Had any man attempted originality in the construction of a declaration he would have by that effort proclaimed himself unfitted for the task. Jefferson felt the heart yearnings of the people; he realized that he was the medium of men and women who had awakened to the heaven-born idea of the inalienable rights of man. So he wrote. He claimed no special originality for the work. On the contrary, with becoming good sense and modesty, he said: "I did not consider it as any

part of my charge to invent new ideas altogether, and to offer no sentiment which had ever been expressed before."

A just writer has said:

Faults of the Declaration. The faults which it has are chiefly of style, and are due to the spirit of the times—a spirit bold, energetic, sensible, independent, in action the very best, but in talk and writing much too tolerant of broad and high sounding generalization.

No matter. The people love the Declaration of Independence. Aye, they hold it in religious reverence; and the man who wrote it is held in esteem that will increase in ardor and strength, rather than diminish, with the years.

Vocation of the signers. The signers of the Declaration of Independence represented many vocations. Twenty-four were lawyers, fourteen agriculturists, four physicians, one minister of the gospel, and three who were prepared for that calling but chose other avocations, one manufacturer, and nine merchants.

Longevity of the signers. The longevity of the signers is remarkable. Three lived to be over 90 years of age, ten over 80, eleven over 70, fourteen over 60, eleven over 50, six over 44, and one, Mr. Lynch, who lost his life by accidental drowning at sea, was 30 years of age. Thus the average of the signers was over 62 years.

Where the Declaration was written. A paper was read before the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, April 11, 1827, by Nicholas Biddle, on 'Thomas Jefferson, in which he says:

He (Jefferson) had selected, with his characteristic love of retirement, a house recently built on the outskirts of the city, and almost the last dwelling house to the westward, where, in a small family, he was the sole boarder. That house is now (1828) a warehouse in the center of Philadelphia, standing at the southwestern corner of Market and Seventh streets, where the Declaration of Independence was written.

Jefferson's statement. The correctness of the statement of Mr. Biddle is corroborated by Mr. Jefferson himself by his letter to Dr. James Mease, of Philadelphia, written at Monticello, September 16, 1825, three years prior to the writing of the paper above referred to by Mr. Biddle, in which he says:

At the time of writing that instrument I lodged in the house of a Mr. Gratz, a new brick house, three stories high, of which I rented the second floor, consisting of a parlor and bedroom, ready furnished. In that parlor I wrote habitually, and in it wrote this paper particularly.

A facsimile of Mr. Jefferson's letter from which this quotation is made may be found elsewhere in this volume.

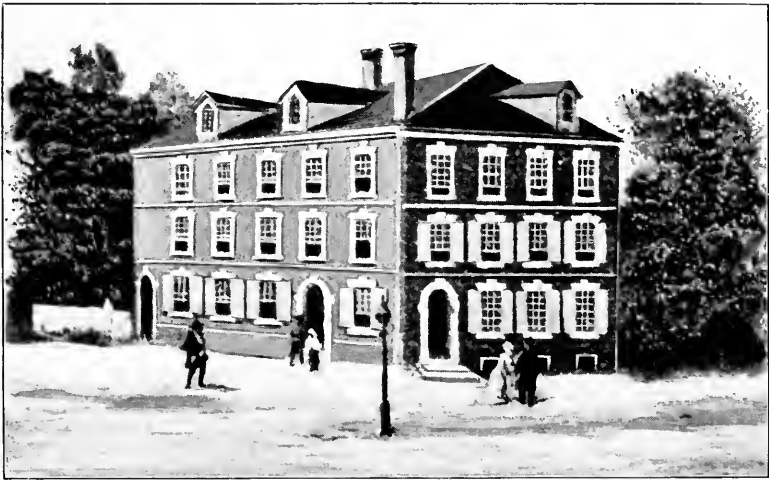
Mr. John M'Allister, jr., of Philadelphia, wrote a letter July 6, 1855, in which he says:

Plan of the house in which it was written. Mr. Hyman Gratz sketched for my father a plan of the house as it was in 1776. This, with some account of the property, which my father had



HOUSE IN WHICH DECLARATION WAS WRITTEN

HOUSE IN WHICH DECLARATION WAS WRITTEN





FACSIMILE OF THE JEFFERSON LETTER IDENTIFYING THE HOUSE  
IN WHICH HE WROTE THE DECLARATION



1990

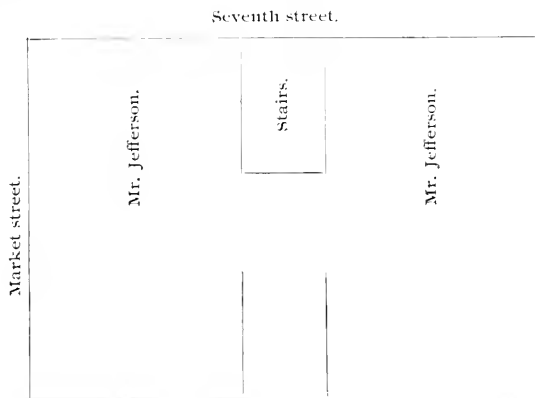
1997

Phil Jeffers & P. Moore

see memo, Dec. of Nov. 6, that the house was located at the NW corner  
Market and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets



collected and made a note of, he inserted in his copy of Mr. Biddle's Eulogium. The following is a copy of the sketch and the note:



The above shows the original plan of the house at the southwest corner of Market and Seventh streets. The two rooms in the second story having the stairway between them were occupied by Mr. Jefferson in 1776. In one of these rooms he wrote the Declaration of Independence.

The corner house and the two adjoining houses on Market street became the property of Mr. Simon and Hyman Gratz, merchants, about 1798, and were for many years occupied by them as their place of business. They added a fourth story to the height. They also closed up the door on Seventh street and removed the stairs. The whole of the second story of the corner house is now in one room, but the place where the old stairway came up can be seen by the alteration in the boards of the floor. The corner house was occupied in 1776 by the father of the late Mr. Frederick Graff, who was then an infant. He told me that he could remember hearing his parents say that he had often sat on Mr. Jefferson's knee. The sketch of the original plan of the house from which this copy was made was drawn for me to-day Mr. Hyman Gratz.

There is a copy of the Eulogium in the Logonian Library, No. 1843.0.8.

Adoption of the Declaration of Independence. The precise hour of the day of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence is not determinable from any record in existence. The record shows that Congress entered upon direct consideration of the question of independence July 1, 1776, by voting to resolve itself into a committee of the whole to take into consideration the resolution introduced by Richard Henry Lee, and to refer the draft of the declaration to this committee.\* Benjamin Harrison, a member from Virginia, was called to the chair, and after a prolonged debate consuming the entire day the resolution was adopted. The committee of the whole then rose, and the president, Mr. Hancock, resumed the chair, whereupon Mr. Harrison reported that the committee had adopted the resolution. The House voted to postpone action on the resolution as reported until the next day, July 2, on which date the resolution was adopted. So that the real independence day is the 2d of July. Upon the adoption of the resolution Congress resolved itself immediately into the committee of the whole, "to consider draft of a Declaration of Independence, or the form of announcing the fact to the world." Debate on the draft continued throughout the 3d and 4th of July.

\*See facsimile of the Resolution as drawn by Mr. Lee, and endorsement thereon.



WENT THEREON  
THE INTERFERENCE OF THE SMITH STORIES AND INTERFERE  
FACSIMILE OF RICHARD HENRY, THE 2 RESOLUTION RESISTING

Resolved ~~That~~

11

That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.

That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign Alliances.

That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective Colonies for their consideration and approbation.

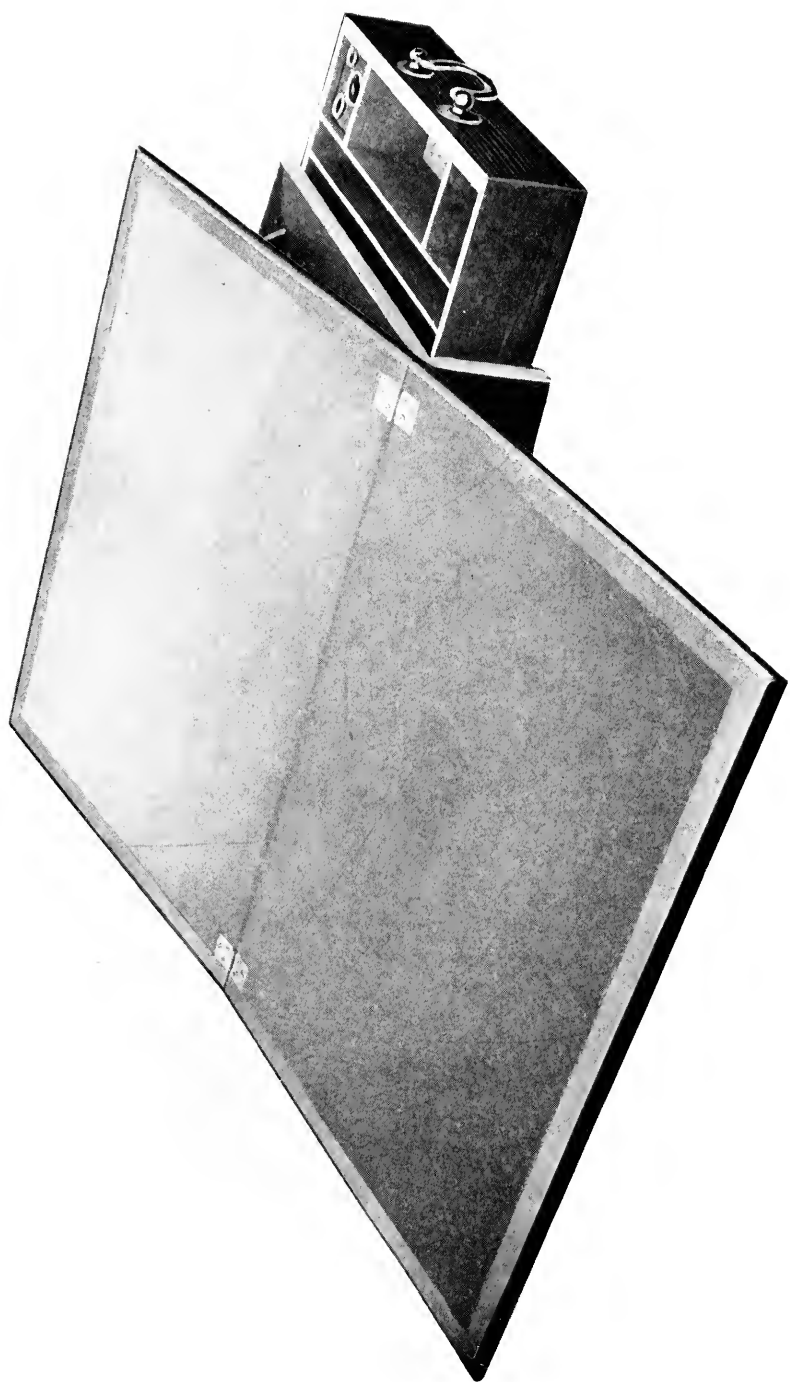
Resolved that it is the opinion of this Convention  
 the first resolution be postponed to this day three weeks  
 and that in the meantime a committee be appointed to  
 prepare a Declaration to the effect of the said first resolution.

June 7-1776. M<sup>th</sup> 4-  
 Resolutions moved  
 June 7<sup>th</sup> 1776.  
 referred for consideration  
 till to morrow

+ least any time sh<sup>d</sup> be lost in case the Congress  
 agree to this resolution.  
 respecting Independence  
 of the U.S.

DESK ON WHICH JEFFERSON WROTE THE  
DECLARATION







On the evening of the 4th the committee arose, President Hancock resumed the chair, and Benjamin Harrison reported the draft of declaration as having been agreed upon, which was adopted. The draft was ordered on the 19th of July to be engrossed, and on the 2d of August the engrossed copy was signed by 50 members.\* It would have been signed by 51 but for the absence of Mr. Houston, of Georgia, who had been sent by the Congress to follow Doctor Zubly, a delegate from the same State, who had fled posthaste from Philadelphia to his State, with the intention of apprising the Crown governor of his State of what was going on behind the closed doors of Congress respecting independence. It appears that Zubly was giving away the secrets of executive sessions, and was accused of his perfidy on the floor of Congress by Mr. Chase, of Maryland. Zubly denied and challenged proof. The proof was made so strong that the guilty delegate fled to Georgia. Congress directed Houston to follow him and to circumvent his evil purposes. By the time they reached Georgia, however, the Crown governor had been deposed by the people and he had escaped and taken refuge in an armed British vessel lying in Savannah Harbor. Zubly's treachery came to

\* Wythe signed about August 27, Richard Henry Lee, Gerry, Wolcott, in September, Thornton in November following, and McKean later, probably in 1781.

naught, but it cheated Houston out of his opportunity to sign. For this reason Georgia had only three signers, Gwinnett, Walton, and Hall.

Jefferson's story of the Declaration.      The story of the consideration and adoption of the Declaration of Independence as told by Jefferson himself must necessarily possess extraordinary interest, and no history of that document can be considered complete without it. He says:

I will give you some extracts from a written document on that subject, for the truth of which I pledge myself to heaven and earth, having, while the question of independence was under consideration by Congress, taken notes in my seat of what was passing, and reduced them to form on the final occasion. I have now before me that paper, from which the following are extracts:

“On Friday, the 7th of June, 1776, the delegates from Virginia moved, in obedience to instructions from their constituents, that the Congress should declare that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved; that measures should be immediately taken for procuring the assistance of foreign powers, and a confederation be formed to bind the colonies more closely together.

“The House being obliged to attend at that time to some other business, the proposition was referred to the next day, when the members were ordered to attend punctually at 10 o'clock. Saturday, June 8, they proceeded to take it into consideration, and referred it to a committee of the whole, into

FACSIMILE OF LETTER OF JEFFERSON PRESENTING  
DESK



Th. Jefferson gives this Writing desk to Joseph Coolidge  
first as a memorial of affection, it was made from a  
drawing of his own, by Ben Randall, cabinet maker of  
Philadelphia, with whom he first lodged on his arrival  
in that city in May 1776 and is the identical one on  
which he wrote the Declaration of Independence.  
Politics, as well as Religion, has it's superstitions.  
These, gaining strength with time, may, one day give  
imaginary value to this relic, for it's association with the  
birth of the Great charter of our Independence.

Monticello. Nov. 18. 1825.



which they immediately resolved themselves, and passed that day and Monday, the 10th, debating on the subject.

“It appearing in the course of these debates that the colonies of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and South Carolina were not yet matured for falling from the parent stem, but that they were fast advancing to that state, it was thought prudent to wait a while for them, and to postpone the final decision to July 1. But that this might occasion as little delay as possible, a committee was appointed to prepare a declaration of independence. The committee were J. Adams, Dr. Franklin, Roger Sherman, Robert R. Livingston, and myself. This was reported to the House on Friday, the 28th of June, when it was read and ordered to lie on the table.

“On Monday, the 1st of July, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, and resumed the consideration of the original motion made by the delegates of Virginia, which, being again debated through the day, was carried in the affirmative by the votes of New Hampshire, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia. South Carolina and Pennsylvania voted against it. Delaware having but two members present, they were divided.

“The delegates from New York declared they were for it themselves, and were assured their constituents were for it, but that their instructions having been drawn near a twelvemonth before, when reconciliation was still the general object, they therefore thought themselves not justified in voting on either side, and asked leave to withdraw from the question, which was given them. The committee then rose and reported their resolution to the House. Mr. Rutledge, of South Carolina, then requested the determination might be put off to the next day, as he believed his colleagues, though they disapproved of the resolution, would then join in it for the sake of unanimity.

The ultimate question, whether the House would agree to the resolution of the committee, was accordingly postponed to the next day, when it was moved, and South Carolina concurred in voting for it.

“ In the meantime a third member had come post haste from the Delaware counties and turned the vote of that colony in favor of the resolution. Members of a different sentiment attending from Pennsylvania also, their vote was changed, so that the whole twelve colonies, who were authorized to vote at all, gave their votes for it, and within a few days (July 9) the convention of New York approved of it, and thus supplied the void occasioned by the withdrawing of their delegates from the vote. (Be careful to observe that this vacillating vote was on the original motion of the 7th of June by the Virginia delegates, that Congress should declare the colonies independent.) Congress proceeded the same day to consider the Declaration of Independence, which had been reported and laid on the table the Friday preceding, and on Monday referred to the Committee of the Whole. The pusillanimous idea that we had friends in England worth keeping terms with still haunted the minds of many. For this reason those passages which conveyed censure on the people of England were struck out, lest they give them offense.

“ The debates having taken up the greater parts of the second, third, and fourth days of July, were in the evening of the last closed. The Declaration was reported by the committee, agreed to by the House, *and signed by every member present except Mr. Dickinson.*” \*

Changes in the original draft of the declaration.

The draft of the declaration as it came from the pen of Jefferson was changed

\* The journal shows that only John Hancock, the President, signed, attested by Charles Thomson, Secretary. The signing was principally done on August 2, 1776.



DECLARATION  
FACSIMILE OF ORIGINAL DRAFT OF THE

A Declaration of the Representatives of the UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA, in General Congress assembled.

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for <sup>one</sup> people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to ~~take a new and separate station among the powers of the earth~~ <sup>separate and equal</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~station~~ <sup>station</sup> to which the laws of nature & of nature's god entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~separation~~ <sup>separation</sup>.

We hold these truths to be <sup>self-evident</sup> ~~clear and undeniable~~ that all men are created equal & independent that <sup>they are endowed by their creator with certain</sup> ~~from that equal station they derive~~ <sup>unalienable</sup> ~~rights~~ <sup>rights</sup> that among <sup>these</sup> ~~which~~ <sup>are</sup> ~~life liberty & the pursuit of happiness~~ <sup>life liberty & the pursuit of happiness</sup>; that to secure these <sup>rights</sup> ~~ends~~ <sup>ends</sup> governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed: that whenever any form of government ~~shall~~ becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, & to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles & organising its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety & happiness. prudence indeed will dictate that governments long established should not be ~~changed~~ <sup>changed</sup> for light & transient causes: and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. but when a long train of abuses & usurpations [beginning at a distinguished period, &] pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to ~~reduce~~ <sup>reduce</sup> them ~~to absolute despotism~~ <sup>to absolute despotism</sup>, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government & to provide new guards for their future security. such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; & such is now the necessity which constrains them to <sup>alter</sup> ~~change~~ their former systems of government. the history of <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>King of Great Britain</sup> present ~~republic~~ <sup>republic</sup> is a history of <sup>repeated</sup> ~~unremitting~~ <sup>unremitting</sup> injuries and usurpations, [among which, <sup>appears no solitary fact</sup> ~~no one fact appears so clearly~~ <sup>to contra-</sup> ~~dict the uniform tenor of the rest~~ <sup>dict the uniform tenor of the rest</sup>], <sup>all of which have</sup> ~~all of which have~~ <sup>in direct object</sup> ~~in direct object~~ the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. to prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world, [for the truth of which we pledge a faith not unallied by falsehood].

he has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good:

he has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate & pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has <sup>utterly</sup> neglected ~~totally~~ to attend to them.

he has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people unless those people would relinquish the right of representation <sup>in the legislature</sup>, a right inestimable to them & formidable to tyrants only;

he has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, <sup>unconvenient</sup> and distant, and has deposited their public records for the sole purpose of <sup>displaying</sup> for opposing <sup>it from</sup> with his measures;

~~he has refused~~ <sup>time after time</sup> he has refused for a long <sup>series of</sup> ~~series of~~ <sup>years</sup> to cause others to be elected, who by the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise, the state remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without & convulsions within:

he has endeavored to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, & raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands:

he has <sup>caused</sup> ~~suffered~~ the administration of justice <sup>totally</sup> to cease in some of these <sup>states</sup> by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers:

he has made <sup>our</sup> judges dependant on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, <sup>the</sup> <sup>&</sup> <sup>payment</sup> and amount of their salaries: † Dr. Franklin

he has erected a multitude of new offices [by a self-assumed power] & sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people & eat out their substance;

he has kept among us in times of peace ~~standing~~ <sup>without the</sup> ~~armies~~ <sup>consent of our</sup> ~~standing~~ <sup>legislature</sup> armies [ & ships of war ]

he has affected to render the military independent of & superior to the civil power:

he has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitutions and unacknowledged by our laws, giving his assent to their <sup>acts of</sup> pretended ~~notion~~ <sup>of</sup> legislation, for quartering large bodies of armed troops among us;

for protecting them by a mock-trial from punishment for any murders <sup>which</sup> they should commit on the inhabitants of these states;

for cutting off our trade with all parts of the world;

for imposing taxes on us without our consent;

for depriving us in many places <sup>in many places</sup> of the benefits of trial by jury;

for <sup>transporting</sup> us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offences: <sup>for abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighboring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government and extending it to render it at once an example & fit instrument for introducing the same abominations there</sup>

for taking away our charters & <sup>valuable</sup> ~~important~~ laws  
for suspending our own legislatures & declaring themselves invested with power to  
legislate for us in all cases whatsoever;  
he has abdicated government here, [by declaring us out of his protection & warring against us,  
withdrawing his governors, & declaring us out  
of his allegiance & protection.]

he is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete

he has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers the merciless Indian  
sways, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of  
all ages, sexes & conditions [of existence].

[illegible]

- ned rights of life & liberty on the persons of a distant people who never of-  
- fended him, captivating & carrying them into slavery in another hemis-  
- sphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. This  
piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the warfare of the  
Christian king of Great Britain. determined to keep open a market  
where MEN should be bought & sold he has prostituted his negative  
for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this  
~~determining to keep open a market where MEN should be bought & sold~~  
execrable commerce, and that this assemblage of horrors might want no fact  
of distinguished die, he is now exciting those very people to rise in arms  
among us, and to purchase that liberty of which he has deprived them,  
by murdering the people upon whom he also obtruded them: thus paying  
off former crimes committed against the liberties of one people, with crimes  
which he urges them to commit against the lives of another.]

in every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms; our repeated petitions have been answered <sup>only</sup> by repeated injuries. a prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a people [who mean to be free]. future ages will scarce believe that the hardness of one man adventured within the short compass of twelve years to ~~lay the foundation of~~ <sup>to</sup> broad & undisguised <sup>to</sup> tyranny ~~only, and to establish a system of arbitrary power, over a people fostered & fixed in principles of liberty & freedom~~

Nor have we been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. we have  
 warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend a juris-  
 -diction over <sup>us</sup> these our states. we have reminded them of the circumstances of  
 our emigration & settlement here. [no one of which could warrant so strange a  
 pretension: that these were effected at the expence of our own blood & treasure,  
 unassisted by the wealth or the strength of Great Britain: that in constituting  
 indeed our several forms of government, we had adopted one common king, thereby  
 laying a foundation for perpetual league & amity with them: but that submission to their  
 parliament was <sup>not</sup> a part of our constitution. <sup>we have injured them by</sup> if it should be  
 credited: and <sup>we</sup> appealed to their native justice & magnanimity [as well as to] the ties  
 of a common kindred to disavow these usurpations which <sup>were</sup> likely to interrupt  
 our <sup>connection &</sup> correspondence. ~~connection~~. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice &  
 of consanguinity, <sup>but must therefore</sup> [when occasions have been given them, by the regular course of  
 their laws, of removing from their councils the disturbers of our harmony, they  
 have by their free election re-established them in power. at this very time too they  
 are permitting their chief magistrate to send over not only soldiers of our common  
 blood, but Scotch & foreign mercenaries to invade <sup>destroy us,</sup> ~~deluge~~ <sup>these facts</sup> these facts  
 have given the last state to a agonising affection, and manly spirit bids us to re-  
 nounce for ever these unfeeling brethren. we must endeavour to forget our former  
 love for them, and to hold them as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war,  
 in peace friends we might have been a free & a great people together, but a commu-  
 nication of grandeur & of freedom it seems is below their dignity. be it so, since they  
 will have it. the road to <sup>the glory</sup> ~~glory~~ happiness is open to us too, we will <sup>must</sup> ~~claim~~ <sup>travels</sup> it on  
<sup>apart from them,</sup> ~~our own path~~, and acquiesce in the necessity which <sup>de</sup> ~~proceeds~~ <sup>from</sup> our ~~inver-~~  
 -sity. <sup>and that it is as we hold the forest of mankind in our arms, in peace, friends,</sup>  
 -cutting Religion [eternal] separation!

We therefore the representatives of the United States of America in General Convention <sup>appearing by the signing paper of the great body which has assembled here</sup> assembled, do, in the name & by authority of the good people of these <sup>colonies</sup> states [reject and renounce all allegiance & subjection to the kings of Great Britain & all others who may hereafter claim by, through, or under them; we utterly dissolve & break off all political connection which may ~~have~~ <sup>have</sup> heretofore subsisted between us & the people or parliament of Great Britain; and finally we do assert and declare these colonies to be free and independant states and that as free & independant states they ~~shall hereafter~~ <sup>full</sup> have power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, & to do all other acts and things which independant states may of right do. And for the support of this declaration] we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, & our sacred honour.

Independence Declaration  
original French draft

a different phras-  
-ology inserted

FIRST BROADSIDE EDITION  
(FACSIMILE)

FIRST BROADSIDE EDITION  
(FACSIMILE)

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

# A DECLARATION

BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

**W**HEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them; a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are suffer'd, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained;—when suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a Right inestimable to them, and formidable to Tyrants only.

He has called together Legislative Bodies at Places—unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People.

He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to dissolve others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise, the State remaining for the mean time exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and of Convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the Population of these States, by forbidding the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners, refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Land.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by retaining his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries.

He has erected a Multitude of new Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance.

He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies, without the Consent of our Legislatures.

He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies, without the Consent of our Legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For quartering large Bodies of Armed Troops among us;

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States;

For cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World;

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent;

For imposing Taxes on us in many Cases, of the Benefits of Trial by Jury;

For depriving us, in many Cases, of the Benefits of Trial by Jury;

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences;

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it at once an Example and fit Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies;

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments;

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People.

He is at this Time, transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the Works of Death, Destruction, and Tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and Perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their Friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic Insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of our Frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known Rule of Warfare, is an undistinguished Destruction, of all Ages, Sexes and Conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions we have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble Terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated Injury. A Prince, whose Character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the Ruler of a free People.

No Man has been wanting in Attention to our British Brethren. We have warned them from Time to Time of Attempts by their Legislature to extend the tyrannical Jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Limitation and Settlement here. We have appealed to their native Justice and Magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the Ties of our common Kindred to disavow these Usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our Connections and Correspondence. They too have been deaf to the Voice of Justice and of Consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the Necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of Mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace, Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, in a timely Public and Deliberate Manner, declare that these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connection between them and the State of Great-Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which INDEPENDENT STATES may rightfully do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

Sign'd by ORDER and in BEHALF of the CONGRESS,

JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT.

Attest:  
CHARLES THOMSON, SECRETARY.

PHILADELPHIA: Printed by J. DUNLAP.



somewhat by the committee before it was reported to Congress for consideration. Then Congress struck out the language charging the King with inciting "treasonable insurrections with our fellow-citizens," by promising them confiscated property; that he had carried on the slave trade, and refused to allow American legislatures to suppress it; that Great Britain had not assisted the colonies in establishing themselves, and that "submission to their parliament was no part of our constitution;" that part attacking the English people for continuing in power "the disturbers of our harmony," and allowing their King and those in his counsel to inflict such wrongs on the people of the colonies. Besides this there was a good deal of purely rhetorical matter about the incredulity of "future ages" respecting the tyranny of the King stricken out.

Debate on the declaration.

It was apparent early in the debate that Congress desired as far as possible to retain the original words of the report. The discussion nevertheless was very heated, John Adams leading in support of the report of the committee. Jefferson sat in his seat without raising his voice in defense of his own work, notwithstanding he writhed in agony as he saw some of his most cherished paragraphs and sentences eliminated from the document. After the adoption of the declaration as amended

Jefferson wrote a letter to Richard Henry Lee in which he said:

Jefferson writes of the changes made. I inclose you a copy of the Declaration of Independence, agreed to by the House, and also as originally framed; you will judge whether it is the better or the worse for the critics.

John Adams remained of the opinion that the House had struck out some of the best parts of the draft. He insisted that great violence had been done to Jefferson's work by striking out the part indicting the King for the continuation of the slave trade. Yet, it will be well to remember that Georgia and South Carolina were both carrying on the slave trade at this time as energetically as they were able, and other colonies had profited largely by the traffic. Hence, it was ridiculous to arraign the King for doing the same thing. At any rate, this part of the draft was easily set aside. An eminent critic has said that "a comparison of the original draft with the declaration as adopted will convince anyone that the House was fully justified in its work."

Error of Mr. Jefferson in regard to the signing of the declaration.

Mr. Jefferson in his account states that all the members present, except Mr. Dickinson, signed the declaration in the evening of the 4th of July. The journal shows that no one signed it that evening except Mr. Hancock and Mr. Thomson. The journal entry is, "Signed by order and in behalf of Congress, John Hancock, President.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF

I, the undersigned, do hereby

do

and

do

FACSIMILE OF DECLARATION AS SIGNED

FACSIMILE OF DECLARATION AS SIGNED

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

[illegible][illegible]



Attest: Charles Thomson, Secretary." The journal continues thus:

That the declaration be authenticated and printed. That the committee appointed to prepare the declaration superintend and correct the press. That copies of the declaration be sent to the several assemblies, conventions and committees or councils of safety, and to the commanding officers of the Continental troops; that it be proclaimed in each of the United States, and at the head of the Army.

The engrossing of the declaration ordered In the Journal of July 19, 1776, the following entry may be found:

That the declaration passed on the fourth of July be fairly engrossed on parchment, with the title and style of The Unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America; and that the same, when engrossed, be signed by every member of Congress.

Engrossed copy signed. On August 2 the declaration, as engrossed under the order of Congress, was signed by all of the members of Congress present. The entry made in the Journal August 2, 1776, reads: "The Declaration of Independence being engrossed and compared at the table was signed." \*

The first celebration of independence. The first celebration of the event was on Thursday, August 8, 1776, in the statehouse grounds, Philadelphia, where every eye could gaze upon the bell that proclaimed liberty throughout the world. The Declaration of Independence was read to a large gathering of people by John Nixon, and great enthusiasm prevailed. The King's

\* See p. 7, and footnote.

arms were taken down in the court room in the state-house, and in the evening there were bonfires, ringing bells, and great demonstrations of joy.

Independence of the United States declared by resolution on the 2d of July. The independence of the United States was declared by resolution on the 2d of July, and the adoption of the form of declaration on the 4th of July was a secondary matter.

It is a little strange that more importance was not attached to the 2d of July in connection with the Declaration of Independence. The resolution introduced by Richard Henry Lee, which declared our independence, was passed on that day. This was really the vital point—the crucial juncture. This resolution declared—

That these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.\*

Depository of the Declaration. Under act of Congress, approved July 27, 1789, which authorized the Secretary for the Department of Foreign Affairs to take charge of all “records, books, and papers in the office of Secretary for the Department of Foreign Affairs,” the Declaration of Independence was deposited in that Department; and under an act approved September 15, 1789, which changed the title of the Department

\* See facsimile of the resolution elsewhere.





The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness—that to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such Principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to secure these ends, and their Safety and Happiness. Prudence in such a case, shall dictate the most proper Measures, to be adopted in a State of Union, or for the Separation and the Formation of a new Government, or for the Union of the States. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies, and such has been the multiplied and aggravated Violations of the Rights of the Colonies, that a more extensive and lasting Union cannot be expected from a continuation of the present form of the Colonies. We therefore, the Representatives of the united Colonies by and with the aid of the good People of these Colonies, do hereby sever themselves from Great Britain, and do hereby declare these Colonies to be free and independent States, that they are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States.

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

of the foundation rock on which the American Republic was built. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity of such a change, and we have no objection to the admission of the colored race to the rights of citizenship. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity of such a change, and we have no objection to the admission of the colored race to the rights of citizenship. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity of such a change, and we have no objection to the admission of the colored race to the rights of citizenship.

[illegible]

10v  
 Bullen's Court  
 Apian Hall  
 11r  
 W. M. p. 10  
 L. M. M. 10  
 L. M. M. 10  
 L. M. M. 10

A large, complex diagram occupies the left and center of the page. It features a central vertical structure with several horizontal and diagonal branches, resembling a tree or a network. To the right of this main structure, there are several smaller, more distinct diagrams, each with its own set of handwritten notes. The entire page is covered in handwritten text in a cursive, slanted Voynich script.

PRESENT APPEARANCE OF THE DECLARATION

Frank Bartlett  
 W. May, pres.  
 Louis Adams  
 John A. Latham  
 Not Seal River  
 Hordge, Geo.  
 George H. Brown  
 William Elliott  
 George Sherman  
 Geo. Hordge  
 A. Hordge



to Department of State, and the Secretary thereof to Secretary of State, that officer was authorized to "have the custody and charge of all books, records, and papers remaining in the office of the late Secretary of the United States in Congress assembled, etc."

The Declaration of Independence, with other records, was deposited in the Department of State, and has, to all intents and purposes, remained in the custody of this Department since.

The document was in the Patent Office from 1841 to 1877. It came into the custody of that Office because for many years it was a part of the Department of State; and was allowed to remain there after that period because the buildings occupied by the Department of State until moved into its present quarters were not fireproof, and it was believed that the Patent Office was.

The parchment illegible and cracking. The Declaration is on parchment, and the paper shows distinctive signs of cracking, which is probably due more to the injury done the paper in the process of making a facsimile in 1823, under the order of President James Monroe,\* than to time or the little handling or jarring the document has received. In 1894 it was hermetically

\*The first facsimile was made in 1823 by order of President Monroe, when John Q. Adams was Secretary of State. The Secretary sent a facsimile to Jefferson in 1824 in compliance with the resolution of Congress of May 26, 1824 (Stat. L., vol. 4, p. 78), authorizing the distribution of 200 copies to signers and their heirs, and others. The Declaration has been photographed probably twelve times.

sealed in a frame and placed in a steel cabinet with the original signed copy of the Constitution, where it is at this time, locked and sealed, by order of Secretary Hay, and is no longer shown to anyone except by his direction.

The present appearance of the document is shown by photography and half-tone on another page. A half-tone illustration of the cabinet in which the Declaration is locked up is also given.

Cabinet in which the  
Declaration is  
kept.

The steel cabinet in which the parchment copies of the Declaration and Constitution are kept stands immediately to the right as one enters the north door of the library of the Department of State. On the left of the door in another steel cabinet may be seen two pages of the original draft of the declaration in Jefferson's handwriting, with a few interlineations made by Franklin and John Adams. In the same cabinet and immediately above the original draft may be seen a facsimile of the engrossed copy. This facsimile was made, as has been already stated, by order of President James Monroe, in 1823, for the purpose of giving a copy to each of the signers then living and their heirs.

Portraits of all the  
signers.

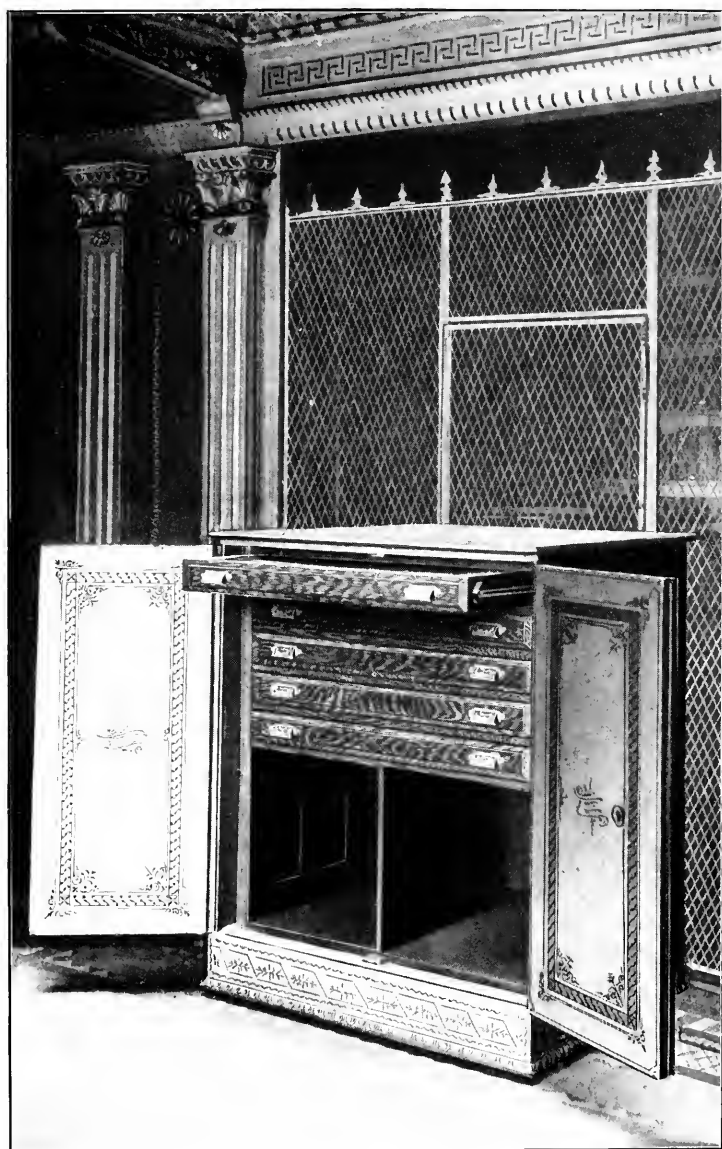
Portraits of the entire fifty-six signers are contained in this volume, including those of Button Gwinnett, John Hart, and Thomas Lynch, of whom it was believed for a long time there

STEEL CABINET IN WHICH THE ORIGINAL ENGROSSED COPY  
OF THE DECLARATION IS KEPT

OF THE DECLARATION IS KEPT  
STEEL CABINET IN WHICH THE ORIGINAL ENCLOSED COPY

**REFERENCE DEPARTMENT**

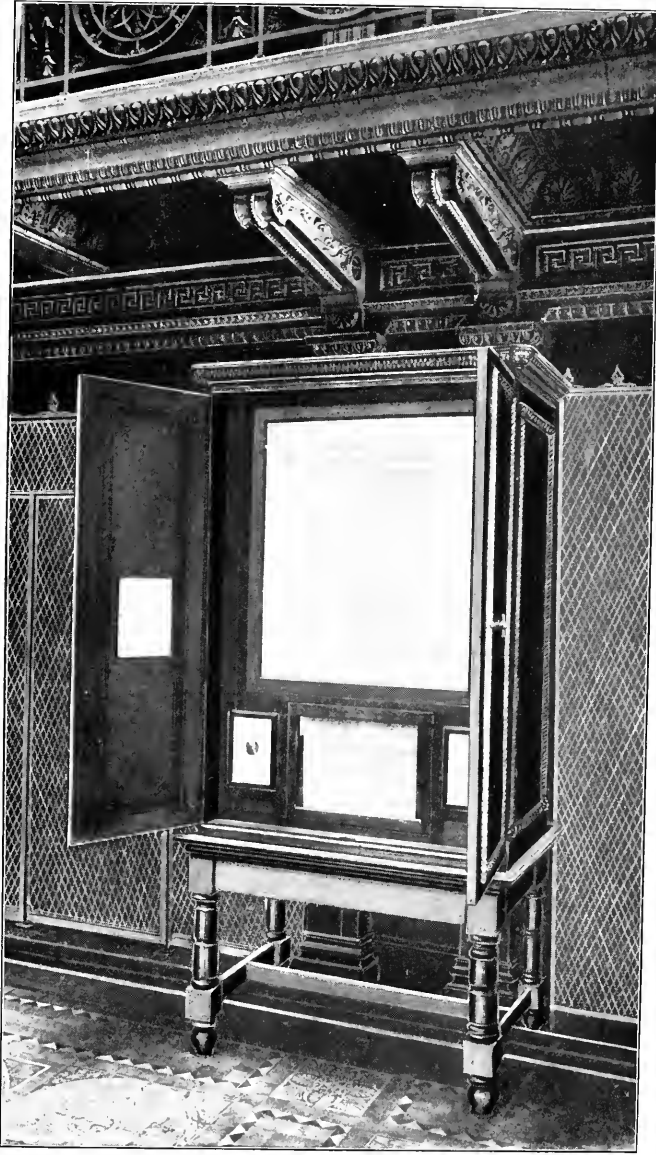
**Office of the Director**





STEEL CABINET CONTAINING ORIGINAL DRAFT AND FACSIMILE  
OF ENGROSSED COPY AS SIGNED

STEEL CABINET CONTAINING ORIGINAL DRAFT AND FACSIMILE  
OF ENGROSSED COPY AS SIGNED





were no portraits of any kind to be had. By correspondence extending over many years and by personal effort these were obtained. It is believed that this is the most complete, and in point of artistic effect the best, collection of the portraits of the signers yet given to the public.

Most of the portraits are after Trumbull, and are, therefore, reliable likenesses, as he painted, either from life or from portraits by contemporary portrait painters, who assisted him in the prosecution of his great work, "The Signing of the Declaration of Independence."

It is proper to say in this connection that the portrait of Benjamin Harrison, which is included by Trumbull in his collection, was painted after Harrison's death, and from minute personal descriptions given the artist by near relatives and friends, who pronounced the portrait a good likeness after it was finished. Trumbull painted forty-six faces in his famous picture. The other ten were painted by other artists, and copies have been obtained by photography.

## THE JOURNAL HISTORY OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

(See Journals of Congress, vol. 2, pp. 205, 206, 207-236, 237, 238, 239, 240-246, 247.)

Saturday June 8, 1776.—“*Resolved*, That the resolutions respecting independency be referred to a committee of the whole Congress.”

The Congress then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, and after some time the president resumed the chair, and Mr. Harrison reported that the Committee have taken into consideration the matter to them referred, directed him to move for leave to sit again on Monday.

*Resolved*, That this Congress will, on Monday next, at 10 o'clock, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the resolutions referred to them.

Monday, June 10, 1776.—Agreeable to order, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole to take into their farther consideration the resolutions to them referred; and, after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. Harrison reported that the committee have had under consideration the matters referred to them, and have come to a resolution thereon, which they directed him to report.

The resolution agreed to in committee of the whole Congress being read—

*Resolved*, That the consideration of the first resolution be postponed to Monday, the first day of July next; and in the meanwhile, that no time be lost in case the Congress agree

thereto, that a committee be appointed to prepare a declaration to the effect of the said first resolution, which is in these words: "That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and Independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved."

Tuesday, June 11, 1776.—"*Resolved*, That the committee for preparing the declaration consist of five. The members chosen: Mr. Jefferson, Mr. John Adams, Mr. Franklin, Mr. Sherman, and Mr. R. R. Livingston.

Tuesday, June 25, 1776.—A declaration of the deputies of Pennsylvania, met in provincial conference, was laid before Congress and read, expressing their willingness to concur in a vote of Congress, declaring the United Colonies free and independent States.

Friday, June 28, 1776.—"Francis Hopkinson, one of the delegates from New Jersey, attended and produced the credentials of their appointment," containing the following instructions:

If you shall judge it necessary or expedient for this purpose, we empower you to join in declaring the United Colonies independent of Great Britain, entering into a confederation for union and common defense, etc.

Monday, July 1, 1776.—"A resolution of the convention of Maryland, passed the 28th of June, was laid before Congress and read," containing the following instructions to their deputies in Congress: "That the deputies of said colony or any three or more of them, be

empowered to concur with the other United Colonies, or a majority of them, in declaring the United Colonies free and independent States, in forming such further compact and confederation between them," etc.

The order of the day being read—

*Resolved*, That this Congress will resolve itself into a committee of the whole to take into consideration the resolution respecting independence.

That the Declaration be referred to said committee.

The Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole. After some time the President resumed the chair, and Mr. Harrison reported that the committee had come to a resolution, which they desired him to report, and to move for leave to sit again.

The resolution agreed to by the committee of the whole being read, the determination thereof was, at the request of a colony, postponed until to-morrow.

*Resolved*, That this Congress will, to-morrow, resolve itself into a committee of the whole to take into consideration the Declaration respecting independence.

Tuesday, July 2, 1776.—The Congress resumed the consideration of the resolution reported from the committee of the whole, which was agreed to, as follows:

*Resolved*, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.

Agreeable to the order of the day the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole; and after some time the President resumed the chair, and Mr. Harrison reported that the committee have had under consideration the Declaration to them referred, but not having had time to go through the same, desired him to move for leave to sit again.

*Resolved*, That this Congress will, to-morrow, again resolve itself into a committee of the whole to take into their farther consideration the declaration respecting independence.

Wednesday, July 3, 1776.—Agreeable to the order of the day the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole to take into their farther consideration the Declaration and after some time the President resumed the chair, and Mr. Harrison reported that the committee, not yet having gone through it, desired leave to sit again.

*Resolved*, That the Congress will, to-morrow, again resolve itself into a committee of the whole to take into their farther consideration the Declaration of Independence.

Thursday, July 4, 1776.—Agreeable to the order of the day the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole to take into their farther consideration the Declaration, and after some time the President resumed the chair, and Mr. Harrison reported that the committee had agreed to a declaration, which they desired him to report.

The Declaration being read, was agreed to, etc.

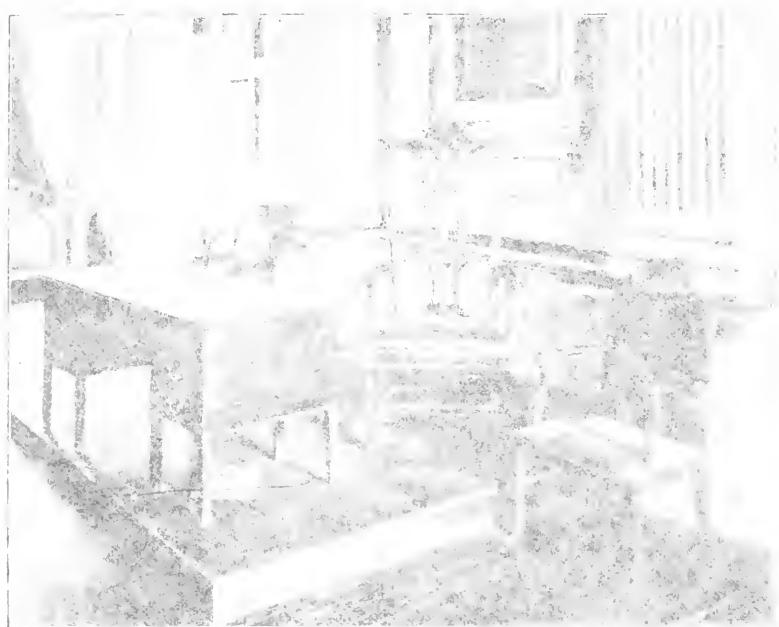
When Declaration was adopted.     The Declaration of Independence was adopted in the evening of July 4, 1776.

On the 19th of July Congress ordered that the Declaration passed on the 4th be fairly engrossed.

On the 2d day of August the Declaration was signed as engrossed by the members present.

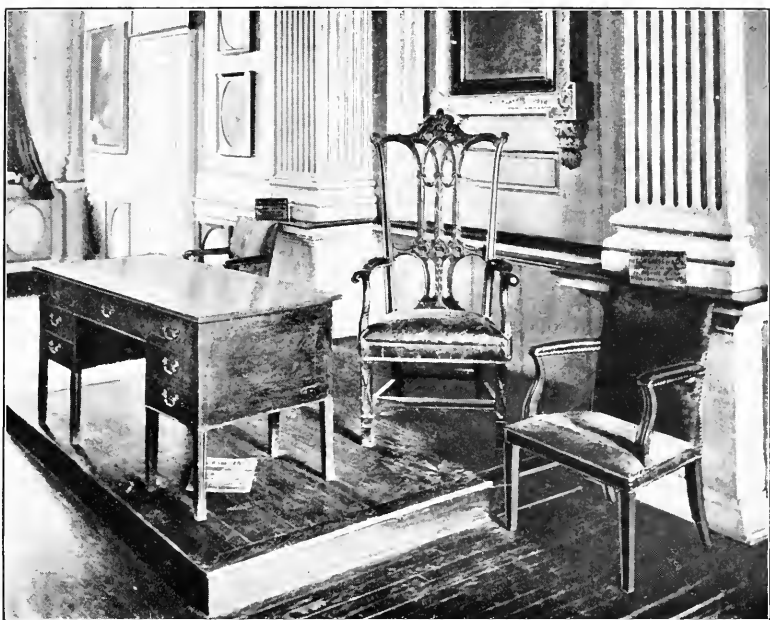
The signing hastened by flies.     Thomas Jefferson was wont to relate, when in a reminiscent mood, that the signing of the Declaration was hastened by swarms of flies that came into the hall through the open windows from a livery stable near by and assailed the silk-stockinged legs of the honorable members. Handkerchief in hand, they lashed the flies with what vigor they could command on a hot August afternoon, but despite their efforts the annoyance became at length almost intolerable, and the members made haste to bring the momentous business to a close.

House in which the Declaration was written.     There is no longer any doubt as to the location of the house in which Jefferson prepared the draft of the Declaration. In a letter he wrote to Doctor Mease, of Philadelphia, dated September 16, 1825, the author of the immortal instrument happily settles the question for all time. He says: "At the time of writing that instrument I lodged in the house of a Mr. Gratz, a new brick house, three stories high, of which I rented the second floor, consisting of a parlor and bedroom, ready furnished. In that parlor I wrote habitually, and in



DESK ON WHICH DECLARATION WAS SIGNED AND  
CHAIRS USED BY SIGNERS









HOUSE IN WHICH DECLARATION WAS SIGNED

HOUSE IN WHICH DECLARATION WAS SIGNED





it wrote this paper particularly. So far, I state from written proofs in my possession. The proprietor, Gratz, was a young man, son of a German, and then newly married. I think he was a bricklayer, and that his house was on the south side of Market street, probably between Seventh and Eighth streets; and if not the only house on that part of the street, I am sure there were few others near it. I have some idea it was a corner house," etc.

The Declaration adopted in Independence Hall. Congress held its sessions during the consideration of the Declaration in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Pa. Prior to the adoption and signing of the Declaration the building was known as the State House. The room in which the Congress held its sessions was the small one on the east side of the main entrance to the building on the ground floor. The building was erected for the enactment of statutes for State government, and was begun in 1729 and completed in 1734, at a cost of \$28,000, which at that time was considered an extravagant sum to put into a public building.

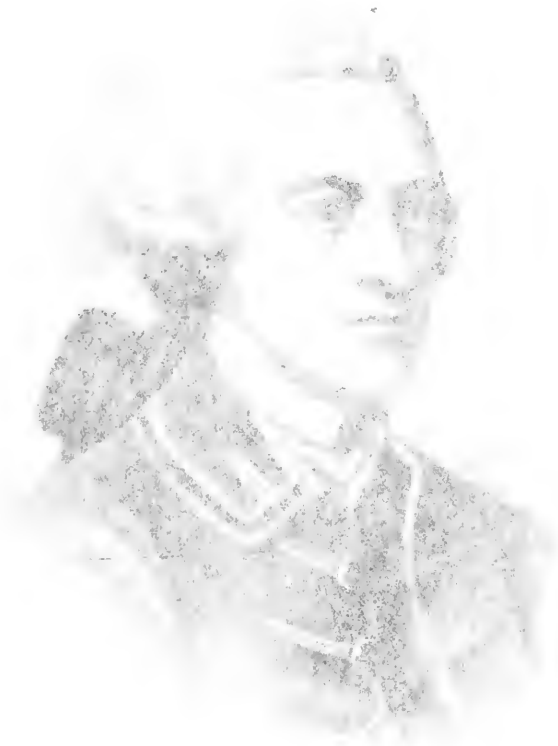
When Congress first met in 1774, it was in Carpenters' Hall. Later Congress met in Independence Hall. After the battle of Brandywine the hall was used as a hospital. It was in this hall that Washington delivered his Farewell Address when he bade farewell to public life; and it was here that La

Fayette received his friends on his visit to Philadelphia in 1824.

Liberty Bell.

The bell that pealed forth in loud acclaim "Liberty throughout the land, and to all the inhabitants thereof," hung in the belfry of the building. The bell first intended for this building was injured in landing it from the ship in 1752. It was recast by Pass & Stow, under direction of Isaac Norris, Speaker of the State Assembly. Norris suggested the motto which was cast on the bell: "Proclaim liberty throughout the land—to all the inhabitants thereof." This was more prophetic than the author dreamed of. The bell was buried in the Delaware River during the struggle for liberty, and was again placed in position when independence was won.

X<sup>r</sup> The bell now reposes in the passageway or main entrance at the foot of the old stairway, where it is viewed annually by thousands of visitors to the shrine of liberty, as Independence Hall is lovingly called.



JOHN HANCOCK

JOHN HANCOCK







JOSIAH BARTLETT

JOSEPH BARRETT





## BIOGRAPHIES OF THE SIGNERS.

(Delegate from Massachusetts and President of the Congress.)

JOHN HANCOCK was born in Quincy, Mass., January 12, 1737; was graduated from Harvard; was trained in the counting house of an uncle, who bequeathed to him a large fortune; was an enterprising and successful merchant; was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1766, as an associate of Samuel Adams, Otis, and Cushing; was a member of the Provincial Congress at Concord, and was chosen President of that body in 1774; was elected to the Continental Congress in 1775, and in the following year signed the Declaration of Independence; was chosen the first Governor of Massachusetts in 1780, and with an interval of two years was annually elected to that office till his death, which occurred October 8, 1793.

### SIGNERS FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE.

JOSIAH BARTLETT was born in Amesbury, Mass., November, 1729; was a regularly educated physician and surgeon, and received the degree of M. D.; commenced the practice of his profession at Kingston in 1750; was appointed to various positions of importance

by the royal governor, John Wentworth, but lost all official favor with royalty by reason of his zealous Whig principles; was appointed to the command of a militia regiment in 1774; was a Delegate to the Continental Congress, *and was the first to vote for the Declaration of Independence* and the *first after the President to sign that document*; in 1777 he accompanied Stark to Bennington; was appointed chief justice of common pleas in 1779, and Justice of the Supreme Court in 1784, and Chief Justice in 1788; was a member of the convention which framed and adopted the Federal Constitution in 1788; was President of New Hampshire in 1790, and became first governor under the new State constitution in 1793. It was through his efforts that the State Medical Society was organized, and he was first president of that body. Died May 19, 1795.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE was born in Kittery, Me., in 1730; received a meager education; was an accomplished sailor, and commanded vessels before he was of age; in 1759 engaged in mercantile pursuits at Portsmouth, N. H.; in 1775 was district representative in the Provincial Congress that convened at Exeter, and was a member of the Continental Congress; was appointed brigadier-general in 1777, and commanded a brigade of New Hampshire troops in the battles of Stillwater and Saratoga; was financial receiver for New Hampshire from 1782 till 1784, and in the former



WM. WHIPPLE

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WM. W. WHIPPLE







MATTHEW THORNTON

MATTHEW THORNTON





year was appointed judge of the supreme court of New Hampshire; died November 8, 1785.

MATTHEW THORNTON was born in Ireland, probably in 1714; received an academic education in the schools of Worcester, Mass.; studied medicine and surgery under Doctor Grout, of Leicester, Mass., and engaged in the practice of his profession at Londonderry, N. H.; was a surgeon in the expedition against Cape Breton in 1745; was a colonel of militia, and held the office of justice of the peace; was first president of the provincial convention which convened in 1775; signed an address to the people of the colony urging resistance to the Crown in June, 1775; was elected speaker of the general assembly January 5, 1776; was appointed on September 15, 1776, by the house of representatives for one year as a Delegate in Congress, and took his seat in November of that year, four months after the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, but he immediately declared in favor of it and was allowed to sign. Benjamin Rush, James Wilson, George Ross, George Clymer, and George Taylor, like Thornton, were not present in Congress on July 4, 1776, when the Declaration of Independence was ratified; indeed, they had not even been chosen Delegates at that date. Mr. Thornton was appointed chief justice of the court of common pleas in 1776, and on January 10, same year, was appointed judge of the superior court of New

Hampshire; was elected to Congress December 24, 1776; removed to Exeter in 1779, and in 1780 retired to a farm on the banks of the Merrimac; was selectman of the town for several years, a member of the general court, and a senator in the State legislature; was appointed a justice of the peace January 25, 1784, under the new constitution and a member of the council in 1785. Mr. Thornton was about six feet in height and large and symmetrical of frame; was dark complexioned, and had black, penetrating eyes; was dignified and commanding, yet full of good humor, and a fine story-teller.

He died in Newburyport, Mass., June 24, 1803, and was buried near Thorntons Ferry, on the Merrimac River. On a slab over his grave is this epitaph:

An honest man.

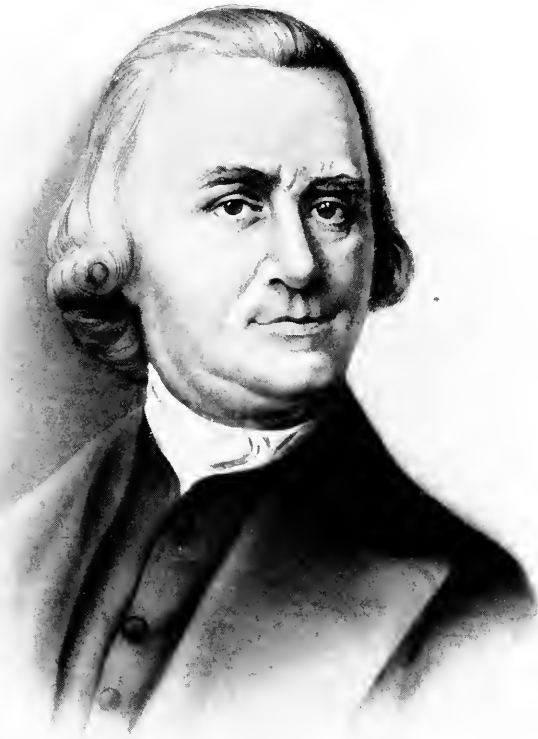
#### SIGNERS FROM MASSACHUSETTS.

SAMUEL ADAMS was born in Boston, Mass., September 27, 1722; was educated in the Latin School of his native city and at Cambridge; was chosen one of the three representatives in the general court of the town of Boston in 1765; was elected in June, 1774, a Delegate to the Continental Congress proposed to meet in Philadelphia; was continued a member of this body for eight consecutive years, and was one of its boldest and most enterprising members; was a member of the convention which formed and adopted the constitution



SAML. ADAMS

SAMUEL ADAMS







JOHN ADAMS

JOHN ADAMS





of Massachusetts in 1780; was a leading member of the Massachusetts convention which met in 1788; was the author of many important papers and pamphlets bearing on public questions of his time; died in Boston, October 2, 1803.

JOHN ADAMS was born October 19, 1735, at Braintree, on the south shore of Boston Harbor; was educated in the schools of Boston and at Harvard, where he was graduated in 1755; was principal of the grammar school in Worcester; completed a two years' course of legal studies at Worcester, and located in the practice of law in Suffolk County in 1758; was the author and mover in a town meeting of the notable stamp-act resolutions; removed to Boston in 1768, and two years later was chosen a representative to the general court; was one of five delegates from Massachusetts to the Congress in Philadelphia in 1774, and on his return home was elected a member for Braintree of the Provincial Congress, then in session; was a member of the Continental Congress in 1775; was a member of the Massachusetts council; was appointed chief justice of that State in 1776, and resigned the office in 1777; was one of the leading and most strenuous upholders of the Declaration of Independence as reported by Jefferson during the three days' debate preceding its adoption; was made chairman of the Board of War and Ordnance established by Congress June 12, 1776; was appointed a

commissioner to France vice Deane, and sailed for his post in the frigate *Boston* February 12, 1778, and arrived there April 8 following; soon after his return was appointed by Congress minister plenipotentiary to negotiate a treaty with Great Britain of peace and commerce, and sailed for this purpose in 1779; was appointed in 1780 by Congress commissioner to negotiate a loan in Holland, and in the same year was appointed minister to that country with special commission to sign the articles of armed neutrality; was recalled to Paris in July, 1781; the following year he negotiated a loan of two millions in Holland and effected a treaty of commerce and amity with that country; was appointed minister to Great Britain in 1785; in 1788 returned home and was elected to the Continental Congress; was elected Vice-President in 1789, and reelected in 1792; succeeded Washington as President in 1796; was a member of the convention of his State in 1820 to revise the constitution of the State; besides his autobiography, was the author of many publications; died at Braintree July 4, 1826, on the same day Thomas Jefferson died.

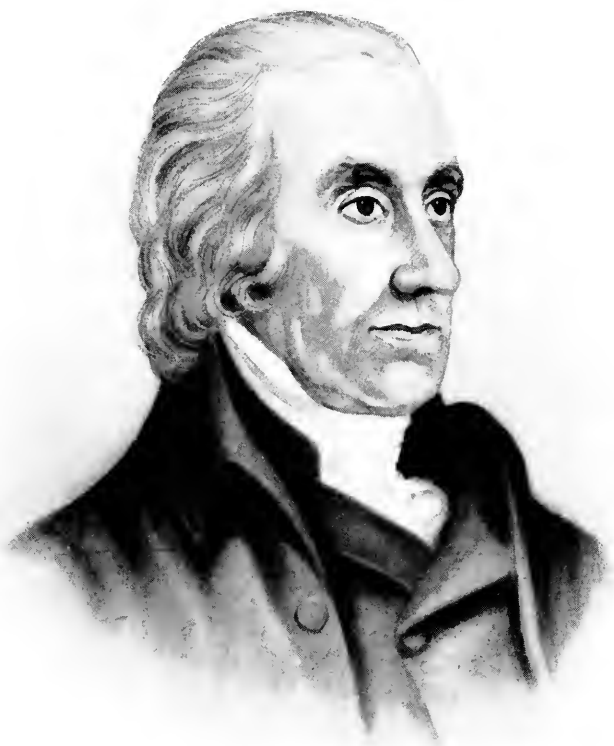
ROBERT TREAT PAINE was born in Boston, March 11, 1731; was educated in the schools of Boston and Harvard College, from which he graduated; studied theology and was chaplain of troops on the northern frontier in 1755; afterwards studied law and engaged



ROBT. TREAT PAINE

# ROBT. TREAT PAINE

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ELBRIDGE GERRY

ELBRIDGE CERRY





in the practice of this profession in Boston; conducted the prosecution against Captain Preston and his men in 1770; was a member of the general assembly of Massachusetts in 1773-74; was appointed a delegate to the Continental Congress in 1774, and reelected in 1775, 1776, 1777, and 1778; was speaker of the house of Massachusetts in 1777, and attorney-general of the State; was a member of the executive council in 1779, and was a member of the committee which drafted the constitution of the State; was again chosen attorney-general of the State in 1780, and in 1790 was elected judge of the supreme court; resigned that office in 1804. He filled other offices of importance, and was one of the founders of the Massachusetts American Academy, in 1780; died in Boston, May 11, 1814.

ELBRIDGE GERRY was born in Marblehead, Mass., July 17, 1744; was graduated from Harvard College in 1762; was engaged in commercial pursuits for a number of years; was elected from Marblehead to the general legislature of the State in 1772; was a member of the committee of safety and supplies which were in session at Cambridge the day before the battle of Lexington; was elected to the Continental Congress in January, 1776, and was made general chairman of the Committee of the Treasury, in which capacity he served till the organization of the Treasury Board in 1780; returned to his home in the latter

year and resumed his place in the general legislature of the State in 1783; refused to sign the Constitution while a delegate in the convention at Philadelphia, but subsequently gave it his support; was sent as a special commissioner to France in company with Pinkney and Marshall in 1797 to negotiate a treaty with France with a view to adjusting all differences between the two countries and assuring peace; was elected governor of his State as a Democrat in 1810, and reelected in 1811; was elected Vice-President of the United States in 1812; died in Washington November 13, 1814.

#### SIGNERS FROM RHODE ISLAND.

STEPHEN HOPKINS was born in Scituate, R. I., March 7, 1707; was educated in the common country school, and received private instruction in mathematics and surveying; was a farmer until 1742, when he sold his farm and removed to Providence, where he erected a fine mansion, in which he lived till his death. He was engaged at different times in manufacturing, surveying lands, shipping, and held office most of his life. He held three important offices at the same time. He was chosen in 1757 to command a volunteer company composed of the most prominent men of his town who offered their services in the French war; was elected a member of the general assembly in 1732; was elected chief justice of the court of common pleas in 1739; was elected governor of the State in 1755, and held the

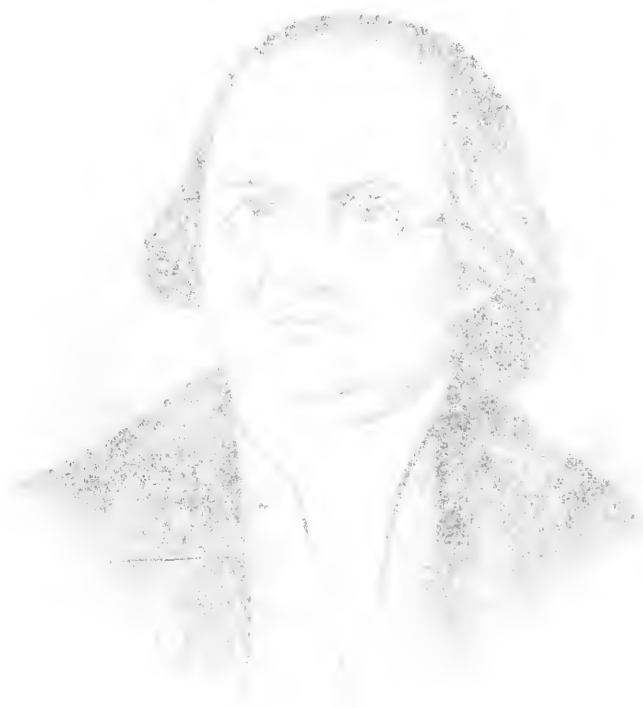


STEP. HOPKINS









WILLIAM ELLERY

WILLIAM ELLERY





position till 1768 with an interval of four years; acted with the commissioners assembled at Albany, N. Y., in 1754, in devising means to cement and strengthen the union of the Colonies; in 1765 was chosen chairman of a committee at Providence to draft instructions to the general assembly on the stamp act; was a member of the General Congress at Philadelphia in 1774, 1775, and 1776; was chancellor of Brown University; in 1765 he published a work entitled "The Rights of the Colonies Examined," and was the author of other important publications. Mr. Hopkins was a man of middle size, well proportioned, fine face and manners, and mild and unostentatious; was twice married. He was a believer in Christianity, and was inclined towards the Society of Friends. He died in Providence July 13, 1785.

WILLIAM ELLERY was born in Newport, R. I., December 22, 1727; was graduated from Harvard in 1747; after leaving college he engaged in mercantile pursuits in Newport; read law, and in 1770 engaged in the practice of this profession in his native town; was elected to the Continental Congress and took his seat in May, 1776; with the exception of the years 1780 and 1782 was a member of Congress till 1786; was appointed by Congress in April, 1786, Commissioner of the Continental Loan Office for the State of Rhode Island; in 1790 was appointed collector of Newport; died in his native town February 15, 1820.

## SIGNERS FROM CONNECTICUT.

ROGER SHERMAN was born in Newton, Mass., April 19, 1721; his educational opportunities were limited; learned the trade of shoemaker and followed this occupation for several years; he improved his spare time in study and became well informed on several lines; removed to New Milford in 1743, and two years later was appointed county surveyor; while thus engaged read law and was admitted to the bar in 1754; was a member of the colonial assembly, and in 1759 was appointed judge of the court of common pleas; was judge of the common pleas in New Haven in 1765, and in 1766 was assistant in the upper house of the legislature; in 1744 was appointed a member of the first Congress at Philadelphia; was elected to the Senate in 1791; was mayor of New Haven in 1784, and treasurer of Yale College; was member of the constitutional convention in 1787, and was influential in securing the ratification of the new constitution by his State; he rendered important assistance in the codification of the laws of Connecticut; died in New Haven July 23, 1793.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON was born in Windham, Conn., July 3, 1732; received a good primary education, but was not a college man; read law and was admitted to the bar; was king's attorney and associate justice of the superior court of his State; entered the



ROGER SHERMAN







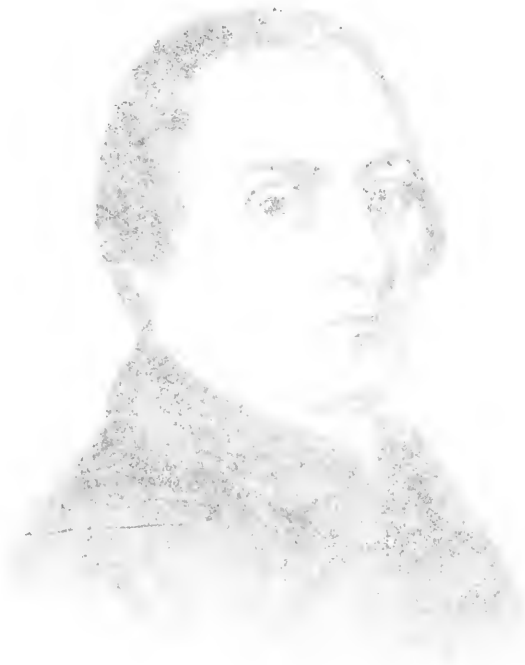


SAML. HUNTINGTON

SAM'L. HUNTINGTON







WM. WILLIAMS

WM. WILLIAMS







OLIVER WOLCOTT

OLIVER WOLCOTT





Continental Congress in January, 1776; was elected President of Congress in September, 1779, succeeding John Jay, and filled the position till 1780; returned home and took his seat on the bench of the superior court; for a short time was again a member of Congress in 1783; was appointed chief justice of the superior court of his State in 1784; was elected lieutenant-governor in 1785 and governor in 1786, and was reelected to this high office for ten years; died while governor, in Norwich, January 5, 1796.

WILLIAM WILLIAMS was born in Lebanon, Windham County, Conn., April 8, 1731; was graduated from Harvard in 1751; was a staff officer of Col. Ephraim Williams, and served in one campaign; was a member of the council of safety; was reelected a delegate to the Continental Congress in 1775; served for nearly fifty years in the legislature of Connecticut; was a member of the convention of his State which adopted the Federal Constitution; died in his native town August 2, 1811.

OLIVER WOLCOTT was born in Connecticut, November 26, 1726; was graduated from Yale College; was commissioned a captain by the governor of New York, and served on the frontier until the peace of Aix la Chapelle; was appointed sheriff of Litchfield County, Conn., in 1751; was a member of the State council in 1774; was a major-general of militia, a judge of the probate court, and judge of the court of

common pleas; was a commissioner of Indian affairs in 1775 for the northern department; while he was in command of the fourteen Connecticut regiments organized to assist the Army in New York he was elected to the Continental Congress; served irregularly in this body while taking a more or less active part as officer in the Army; participated in the battle of Saratoga while a member of Congress, in which body he continued to serve until 1783; was lieutenant-governor of his State from 1786 to 1796; was elected governor in the latter year, and continued in the office till his death, December 1, 1797.

#### SIGNERS FROM NEW YORK.

WILLIAM FLOYD was born in Suffolk County, N. Y., December 17, 1734; received a practical education; was in command of forces in Suffolk County when the Revolutionary troubles began; was elected a delegate in 1774 to the First Continental Congress; was again elected in 1775, and continued a member for eight years; was elected a State senator in 1777, and served in that body, though also a member of Congress at the same time; was a member of the First Congress under the Federal Constitution; was a Presidential elector in 1801; served in the convention for the revision of the constitution of his State; died in Western, Oneida County, N. Y., August 4, 1821.



WM. FLOYD

WM. FLOYD







PHIL. LIVINGSTON

PHIL. LIVINGSTON

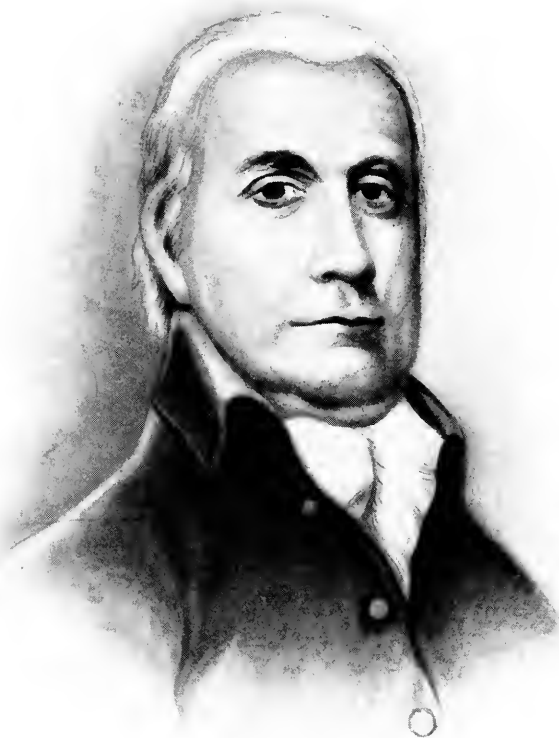






FRANS. LEWIS

FRANS. LEWIS

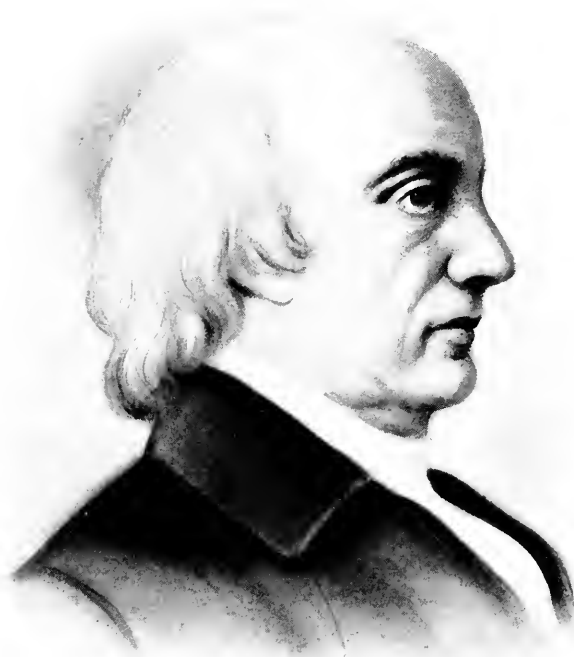






LEWIS MORRIS

LEWIS MORRIS





PHILIP LIVINGSTON was born in Albany, N. Y., January 15, 1716; was graduated from Yale College in 1737, engaged in mercantile business in New York City; was elected to the house of the general assembly in 1758, and continued a member of the assembly until 1769; was a member of the First and Second Continental Congresses; was a member of the New York provincial congress; served in the State assembly and in the senate; was a member of the Continental Congress, then sitting in York, Pa., where he died June 12, 1778.

FRANCIS LEWIS was born in Llandaff, Glamorganshire, Wales, March, 1713; was educated at Westminster School; emigrated to New York in 1735; was engaged in commercial pursuits until the war broke out, in 1775, when he was elected to the Continental Congress, and took his seat as a member of that body in Philadelphia; was a member of Congress, except one term, until April, 1779, and was an active and useful member; died in New York December 30, 1803.

LEWIS MORRIS was born in Morrisania, Westchester County, N. Y., in 1726; was graduated from Yale College in 1746; became largely interested in agricultural pursuits; was elected to Congress in 1775; and was a member of the committee to devise means for supplying the colonies with munitions of war; was sent west to influence the Indians to leave the British and make common cause with the colonists; resumed

his seat in Congress in 1776; afterwards served in the State legislature; died in his native town January 22, 1798.

SIGNERS FROM NEW JERSEY.

RICHARD STOCKTON was born near Princeton, N. J., October 1, 1730; was graduated from the College of New Jersey, at Newark, in 1748; studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1754; was made a member of the executive council of his State in 1768; was appointed a judge of the supreme court in 1774; was elected to Congress in 1776; served on the Committee to Inspect the Northern Army; was captured by the British and confined in their military prison at New York. The severe treatment received by him when a prisoner broke down his health and was the immediate cause of his death, which occurred at Princeton, February 28, 1781.

JOHN WITHERSPOON was born in the Parish of Tester, Haddingtonshire, Scotland, February 5, 1722; was educated at the University of Edinburgh; was ordained minister of the Parish of Beith, the West of Scotland, in 1745; succeeded to the presidency of Princeton on the death of President Finley in 1768; was a member of the provincial congress of New Jersey, and of the Continental Congress at Philadelphia in 1776, in which latter body he represented New Jersey for six years; he had conferred upon him the degrees of D. D. and LL. D.; his contributions to



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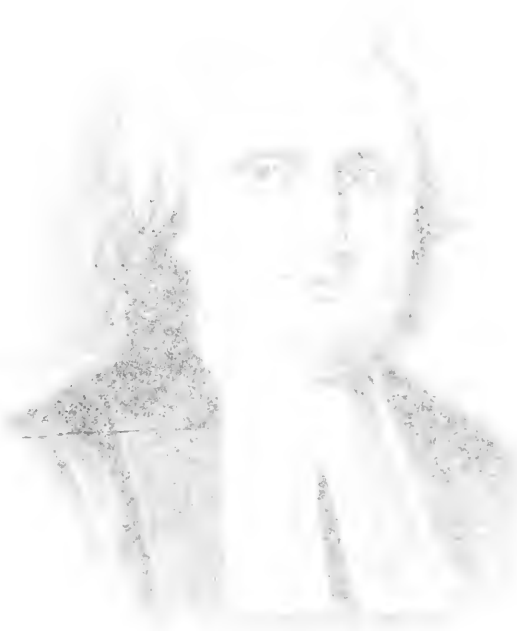
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RICHARD STOCKTON

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JNO. WITHERSPOON

NO. WITHERSPOON







ABRA CLARK









FRAS. HOPKINSON

FRAZ. HOPKINSON





literature were, for the most part, on subjects connected with religion; died near Princeton September 15, 1794.

ABRAHAM CLARK was born in Elizabethtown, N. J., February 15, 1726; was educated in the schools of his native town; read law, was admitted to the bar, and practiced his profession with success; was sheriff of Essex County; was appointed June 21, 1776, by the provincial congress one of five delegates to the Continental Congress; served in Congress, except in 1779, till November, 1783; was one of the commissioners in the convention that convened at Annapolis September 11, 1786; was appointed on May 8, 1787, by the council and assembly of his State, one of the commissioners to the convention which framed the Federal Constitution; was elected to the Second Congress in 1790; died at Rahway, N. J., September 15, 1794.

FRANCIS HOPKINSON was born in Philadelphia September 21, 1737; was graduated from the College of Philadelphia (now the University of Pennsylvania); studied law and was admitted to the bar; was secretary in a conference held on the Lehigh in 1761 between the government of Pennsylvania and certain Indian tribes; was elected a representative in the Continental Congress in 1776; was appointed judge of the admiralty of Pennsylvania and held the office for ten years; appointed by President Washington United States district judge of Pennsylvania; was the author of

several books, among which were 'The Pretty Song, in prose, and The Battle of the Kegs, in poetry; his miscellaneous writings were published in 1792; died in Philadelphia May 9, 1791.

JOHN HART was born in Hopewell, N. J.; received a common education; was elected at different times a member of the colonial assembly of New Jersey; was elected to the Continental Congress, in Philadelphia, in 1774, where his clear judgment and unswerving patriotism distinguished him; was reelected in 1775 and 1776; when New Jersey was invaded by the British his estate was devastated, and special efforts were made to capture him; the capture of the Hessians by Washington enabled him to return home; died in his native town, in 1780, at an advanced age.

#### SIGNERS FROM PENNSYLVANIA.

ROBERT MORRIS was born in Lancashire, England, January 20, 1734; emigrated to America and located in Philadelphia, where he engaged in business; was a strong opponent of the stamp act, and signed the non-importation agreement of 1765; was elected a delegate to the Continental Congress in 1775; voted against the Declaration of Independence on July 1, but signed it three days later; on July 20, 1776, was elected to Congress and again in 1777; was instrumental in establishing a bank in 1780, by means of which 3,000,000 rations of provisions and 300 hogsheads of



JOHN HART



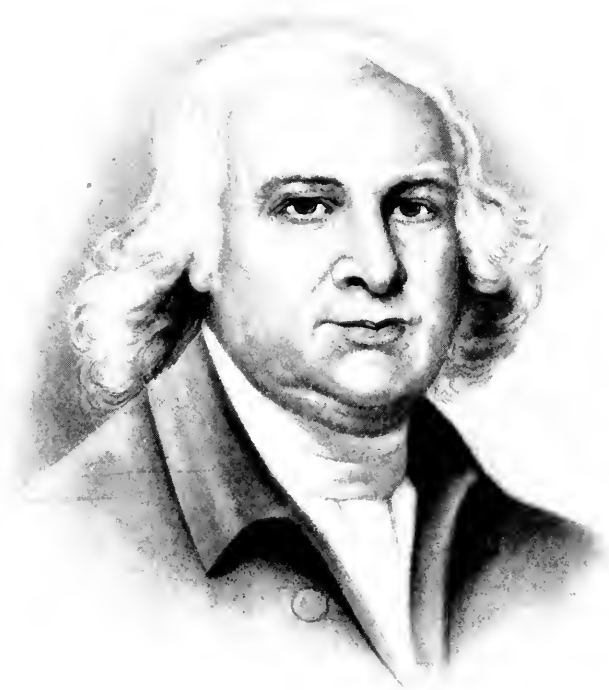






ROBT. MORRIS

ROBT. MORRIS







BENJAMIN RUSH

BENJAMIN RUSH







BENJ. FRANKLIN

BENJ. FRANKLIN





rum were procured and forwarded to the needy Army; was elected superintendent of finance February 20, 1781; established the Bank of North America; served as superintendent of finance till November, 1784; was charged with the affairs of the Navy for several years and until the close of 1784; was elected in 1787 a member of the Convention which framed the Federal Constitution; was elected to the first United States Senate; in 1784 sent the first American vessel that ever appeared in the port of Canton, China; died in Philadelphia May 8, 1806.

BENJAMIN RUSH was born on Poquestion Creek, near Philadelphia, December 24, 1745; was graduated from Princeton College in 1760; studied medicine in Philadelphia, Edinburg, London, and Paris, and established himself in practice in Philadelphia in 1769; was elected to Congress in 1776; was made surgeon-general of the Army for the Middle Department in April, 1777, and in July, same year, physician-general; in 1785 he planned the Philadelphia dispensary; was made professor of medicine in the Philadelphia Medical College in 1789; was appointed Treasurer of the United States Mint in 1779; was the author of a number of valuable works on physiology and medicine; died while Treasurer of the Mint, April 19, 1813.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN was born in Boston, Mass., January 17, 1706 (o. s. January 6); was the son of a tallow chandler; acquired his education principally in the

printing office; landed in Philadelphia when about 17 years of age, a friendless and practically a runaway apprentice; passed through all the grades from apprentice to editor in chief and proprietor; established the academy which matured into the University of Pennsylvania; projected and established the first public library of Philadelphia; founded the Philadelphia Gazette, which furnished him bread and butter most of his life; started Franklin's Almanac when 26 years of age, under the pseudonym of "Richard Saunders," better known as "Poor Richard," and made it during the twenty-six years he was its editor a household necessity throughout the colonies; was elected to the assembly in 1750; was appointed a commissioner for making a treaty with the Indians in 1752; was made Deputy Postmaster-General in 1753; was chosen a deputy to the General Congress at Albany in 1754; graduated from journalism into diplomacy, and spent forty-one years practically in diplomatic service; began his diplomatic career at 41 years of age, in 1757, by appointment of the Pennsylvania assembly as special commissioner to present a petition to the King praying that the Penn proprietary estates might be taxed for the defense of the province against the French and Indians; spent five years in England on this mission, and succeeded in overcoming all obstacles by a compromise which pledged the assembly to pass an act to assess the surveyed

waste lands of the estate at the usual rate; returned to Philadelphia in 1762, and two years later was sent back to try to have the offensive stamp act repealed; spent eleven years in futile effort to accomplish the object of his mission; returned to Philadelphia in 1775; on the morning of his return to Philadelphia was elected by the assembly a Delegate to the Continental Congress; served on ten committees in this Congress; was actively in favor of the measures which resulted in the consolidation of the armies of the colonies, in giving Washington command of them, in the issuance of the first Continental currency, and in the assumption of the responsibility of defying George III; was one of the five who drew up the Declaration of Independence; was one of three sent to France to solicit her aid, and to create sympathy in continental Europe for the infant Republic. His fame as a scientist and thinker, due in part to his experiments with electricity, had preceded him and gave him prestige which served him well in his new field of diplomacy, the object of his mission being the dismemberment of British territory. The French were eagerly responsive; succeeded in securing financial aid from France of over five millions of dollars; his success in France was so great that John Adams, his colleague, wrote of him as *le Grand Franklin*, whose reputation "was more universal than that of Leibnitz or Newton, Frederick the Great, or Voltaire, and his

character more beloved and esteemed than all of them;" signed the definitive treaty of peace with the mother country November 30, 1782; asked to be relieved of his diplomatic mission the following year, having been on this mission for nine years, but it was not until March 7, 1785, that Congress permitted him to return; though 79 years of age, on his return home he was elected by an absolutely unanimous vote president of Pennsylvania and was reelected two succeeding years; while president he was chosen a member of the Constitutional Convention, which met May, 1787; his work in making the Constitution under which we live was equal to that of any other member; was foremost in organizing the first antislavery society; wrote the first remonstrance ever presented to Congress against human slavery; was a great inventor, but never took out a patent; was a great writer, but never asked for a copyright; was three years president of his State, but never would take any salary; was the father of a son before he was a husband, yet he educated the son, who became, under his father's direction and care, a member of the English bar, was his father's secretary at court, and was made Crown governor of New Jersey, and the father when at the zenith of his fame proclaimed him his son.

Franklin was not a member of any church but declared that he "believed in one God the Creator of the Universe, and that He ought to be worshipped;"



JOHN MORTON

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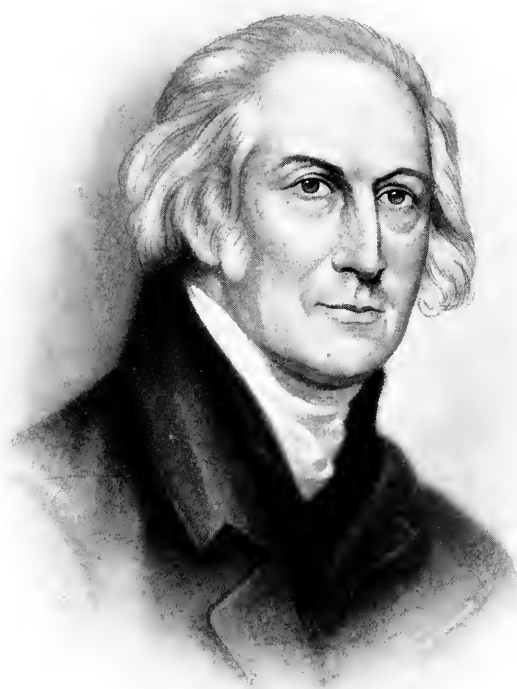






GEO. CLYMER

GEO. CLYMER





that the most acceptable service we could render Him was in doing good to His other children; that the soul of man is immortal; was not a believer in the divinity of Jesus, but saw no harm in believing it, and even thought that the doctrines taught by the Christ, whose system of morals he declared was "the best the world ever saw or is like to see," would be more generally respected and observed by such a belief; died in Philadelphia April 17, 1790.

JOHN MORTON was born in Ridley, Del. (then Chester County, Pa.), in 1724; was chosen a member of the general assembly of his State in 1764; was a member of the stamp act congress in 1765, which met in New York; was sheriff of his county in 1767; was a judge of the supreme court; was elected a delegate to the first Congress in 1774, and returned four times; died in April, 1777.

GEORGE CLYMER was born in Philadelphia in 1739; was educated in the schools of his native city; entered mercantile life when a lad and acquired a competence; was a bold and forceful advocate of the independent rights of the colonists from the first; was a prominent speaker at the "tea meeting" in Philadelphia, October 16, 1773; was appointed chairman of the committee which requested the tea agents to resign; was appointed to take charge of the public treasury July 29, 1775; was elected to Congress in 1776 to succeed a member who had refused to sign the

Declaration of Independence, and promptly affixed his signature; was a member of the convention which framed the Federal Constitution; was elected to the first Congress held under that instrument, in 1788; declined reelection in 1790; was appointed collector of excise duties on spirits in 1791, the collection of which led to the whisky riots; resigned this office, and was appointed, with Pickens and Hawkins, to negotiate a treaty with the Cherokees and Creek Indians in Georgia; died in Morrisville, Pa., July 23, 1813.

JAMES SMITH was born in Ireland, probably in the year 1719; removed with his parents to America in 1729, and located in Lancaster, Pa.; was educated in the schools of that town; studied law and was admitted to the bar; was an eloquent advocate of the rights of the colonists against the encroachments of the mother country; was chosen a deputy to attend the "committee for the Province of Pennsylvania" in 1774, which convened in Philadelphia that year; was elected a member of the Continental Congress in 1776, and reelected to that body in 1777 and 1778; was elected a member of the general assembly of the State in 1780; died in York, Pa., July 11, 1806.

GEORGE TAYLOR was born in Ireland in 1716; was the son of a clergyman, and received a liberal education under the tuition of his father and other tutors; began the study of medicine, but gave it up to emigrate to America in 1736; when he arrived in



JAS. SMITH.

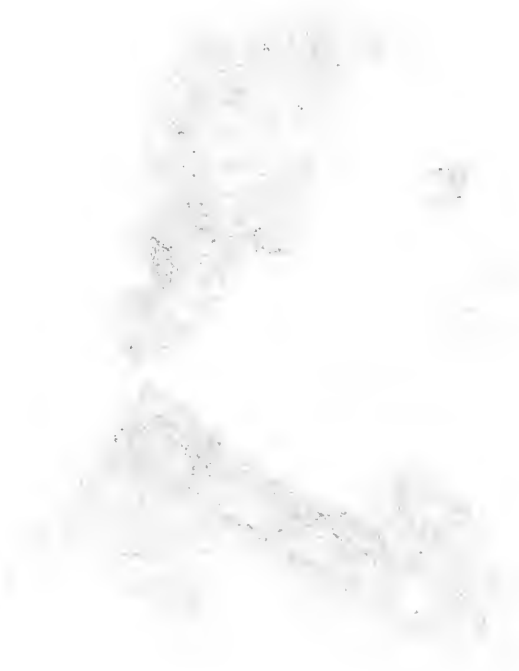
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GEO. TAYLOR

GEO. TAYLOR





Philadelphia he was wholly without means, and was bound to an iron manufacturer at Durham, Pa., whom he served as a clerk for a number of years; upon the death of his employer he assumed charge of the business for the estate and conducted it with success; married the widow of his former employer and became proprietor of the works, which he enlarged and made more successful than ever; removed to Northampton County and established iron works on a larger and more up-to-date scale; was elected to the provincial assembly which met at Philadelphia October 15, 1764, and was reelected successively till 1770, and at all times took a leading part in the proceedings of that body; was elected county judge and colonel of militia; his business not proving profitable in the new field, he relocated at Durham, and was elected to the provincial assembly in 1775, and was placed on the committees of safety, on grants of the Crown, military preparations, and a special committee created to draw up instructions for delegates to the Continental Congress, which were against absolute separation, and five of the Pennsylvania delegates refused to vote for the resolution favoring independence; the provincial assembly revoked the instructions in June, 1776, and elected new delegates favorable to independence, George Taylor being one of the five; he took his seat in Congress the day of his election, and promptly signed the Declaration of Independence, with the

other delegates, August 2, when the engrossed copy was ready; he retired from Congress in 1777, and devoted himself to the care of his estates in Northampton County; died February 23, 1781.

JAMES WILSON was born near St. Andrews, Scotland, in 1742; received a good education in his native country; emigrated to America in 1766, and located in Philadelphia; studied law in the office of John Dickinson; was a member of the provincial convention of Pennsylvania in 1744; was elected to the Continental Congress in May, 1775; was appointed advocate-general of France in the United States, and held the office three years; was chosen a member of the convention that framed the Federal Constitution, and when that instrument became operative was appointed an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court; in 1790 was appointed the first professor of law in the College of Philadelphia; died August 28, 1798.

GEORGE ROSS was born in Newcastle, Del., in 1730; received an academic education; studied law, and was admitted to the bar; established himself in practice in Lancaster, Pa., in 1751; was a member of the colonial assembly of his State from 1768 to 1776, and at the same time was a Representative in the Continental Congress in 1774, and continued a member of the latter body until 1777; after retiring from



JAMES WILSON

JAMES WILSON











CÆSAR RODNEY

CÆSAR RODNEY







GEO. READ

GEO. READ





Congress was elected a member of the convention of Pennsylvania; was appointed a judge of admiralty in April, 1779; died in Lancaster, July, 1779.

## SIGNERS FROM DELAWARE.

CAESAR RODNEY was born in Dover, Del., in 1730; was educated in the schools of his native town; was a lawyer; was a member of the State assembly, which held its sessions at Newcastle, of which body he was speaker; by virtue of his authority as speaker he called a meeting of the assembly in 1774, which elected him to the Continental Congress; was re-elected to Congress and took an active part in its deliberations; was appointed a brigadier-general; was appointed president of Delaware in 1777; declined reelection to this office in 1782, and was elected a Delegate to Congress; died in 1783.

GEORGE READ was born in Cecil County, Md., in 1734; was educated by private tutors; read law and was admitted to the bar; practiced his profession in Newcastle, Del.; was appointed attorney-general for the three lower counties on the Delaware River in 1763; was elected to the Continental Congress in 1774; was president of the convention which formed the first constitution of Delaware in 1776; was chosen vice-president of the State under this constitution; was appointed judge of the United States court of appeals in admiralty cases in 1782; was a member of

the convention that framed the Constitution of the United States; was first United States Senator for Delaware chosen under the operation of the new Constitution; was made chief justice of Delaware in 1793; died in 1798.

THOMAS MCKEAN was born in New London, Chester County, Pa., March 19, 1734; received a practical education under the tuition of Rev. Francis Allison, at Newcastle, Del.; read law and was admitted to the bar; elected a member of the Pennsylvania assembly in 1765, and was reelected consecutively for seventeen years; was also appointed a delegate to the General Congress of the Colonies, which met in New York in 1765; was appointed the same year judge of the court of common pleas for Newcastle County, Del.; was a delegate from the lower counties in Delaware in 1774, and was reelected nine consecutive years; was president of the Congress in 1781; was chief justice of Pennsylvania from 1777 until 1799; was elected governor of Pennsylvania in 1799, and continued to fill that office until 1808; died June 24, 1817.

#### SIGNERS FROM MARYLAND.

SAMUEL CHASE was born in Somerset County, Md., April 17, 1741; studied law at Annapolis, and was admitted to the bar in his twentieth year; was chosen by the Maryland convention as a Delegate to the Continental Congress in 1774, and reelected four



THO. M'KEAN

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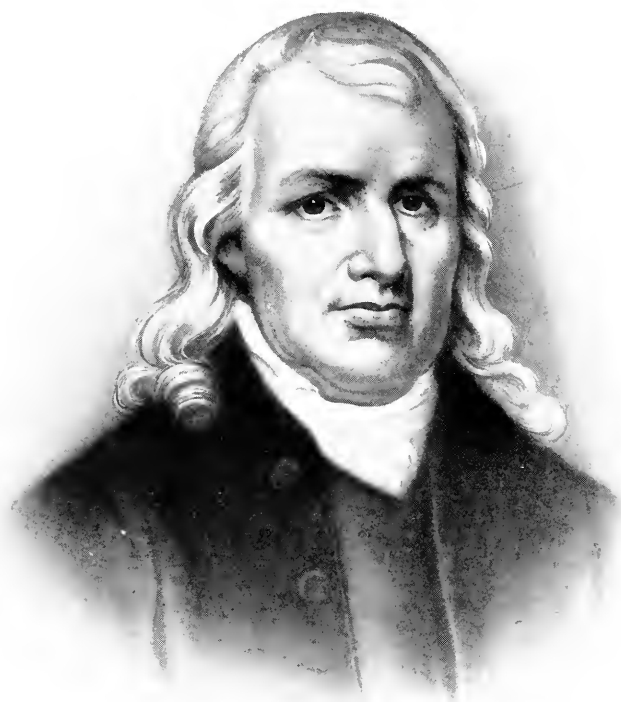






SAMUEL CHASE

SAMUEL CHASE







WM. PACA

WM. PACA







THOS. STONE

THOS. STONE





consecutive years; was sent by his State as a commissioner to England in 1783; was appointed chief justice of a criminal court in Baltimore in 1788; was made chief justice of the general court of his State in 1791; was appointed an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court in 1796; died June 19, 1811.

WILLIAM PACA was born at Wye Hall, Harford County, Md., October 31, 1740; was graduated from Philadelphia College in 1758, and studied in the Middle Temple, London; was admitted to the bar in 1764, and practiced law in Annapolis, Md.; was elected a member of the provincial legislature in 1771; was elected a member of the Continental Congress in 1774; was State senator for two years; was made chief judge of the superior court of his State in 1778; was appointed chief judge of the court of appeals in prize and admiralty cases in 1780; was elected governor of the State, 1782; was again elected to Congress in 1786; was again elected governor same year; was a member of the State convention that ratified the Federal Constitution; was appointed judge of the United States district court for Maryland in 1789, and served ten years. Died in 1799.

THOMAS STONE was born at Point Manor, Charles County, Md., in 1743; commenced the practice of law at Fredericktown (now Frederick) in 1769; was elected a member of Congress in 1774, and reelected in 1775, 1777, and 1783; was a member of the State legisla-

ture when not in Congress; died in Alexandria, Va., October 5, 1787.

CHARLES CARROLL of Carrollton was born at Annapolis, Md., September 20, 1737; was a member of the first committee of observation established at Annapolis in 1775; was a delegate to the national convention; was appointed a commissioner to accompany Benjamin Franklin and Judge Chase to Canada in February, 1776; was elected to Congress July 4, 1776; was placed on the Board of War; assisted in drafting the constitution of his State in 1776; was chosen to the Senate under that constitution; was reelected to Congress in 1777; was again elected to the State senate in 1781 and 1786; 1789 was elected to the Senate of the United States; was again elected to the State senate in 1797; was appointed a commissioner to settle the boundary line between Virginia and Maryland; died November 14, 1832.

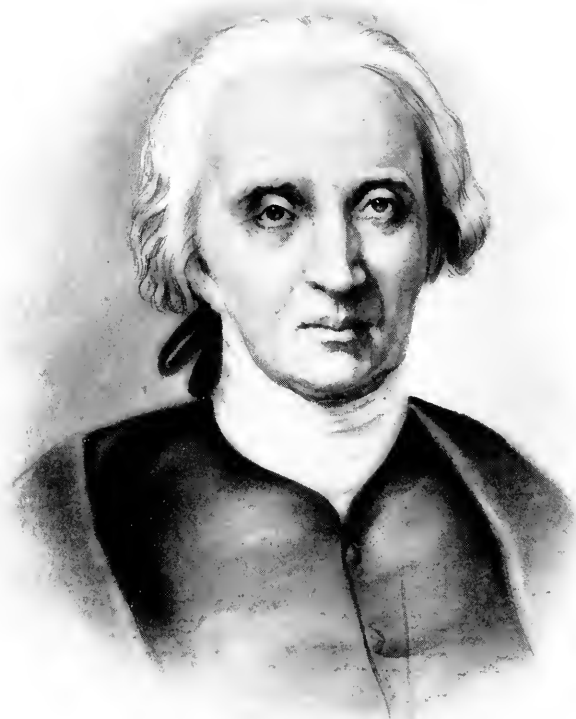
#### SIGNERS FROM VIRGINIA.

GEORGE WYTHE was born in Elizabeth City, Va., in 1726; was elected to the house of burgesses in 1763; was placed on the organized committee to prepare a remonstrance against the stamp act; was again elected to the house of burgesses in 1768 and 1769; was elected to the Continental Congress in August, 1775; was chosen a judge of the high court of chancery in 1777; was later chosen sole chancellor;



CHARLES CARROLL OF CARROLLTON

CHARLES CARROLL OF CARROLLTON







GEORGE WYTHE

GEORGE WYTHE

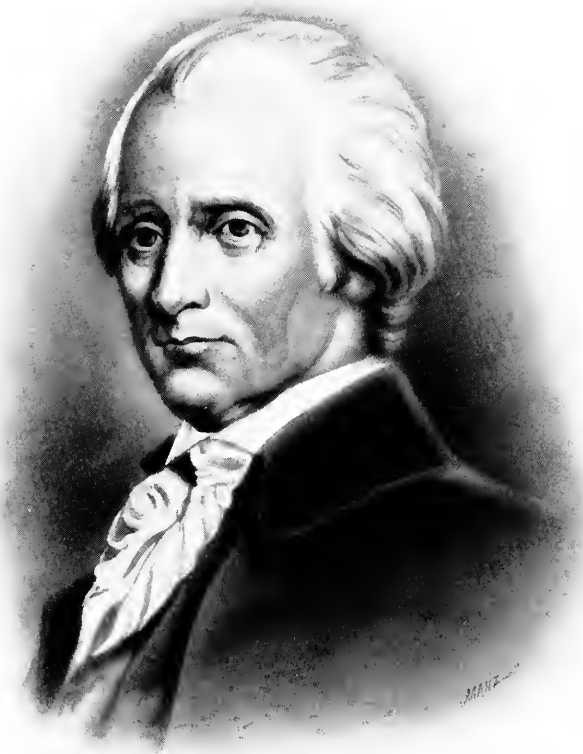






RICHARD HENRY LEE

RICHARD HENRY LEE





was professor of law in William and Mary College; died in Richmond June 8, 1806, from the effects of poison.

RICHARD HENRY LEE was born at Stratford, Westmoreland County, Va., January 20, 1732; was educated at the Academy of Wakefield in Yorkshire, England; returned to his home in Virginia in 1752, and applied himself assiduously to the study of common and Roman law and history. In 1757 he was appointed justice of the peace for his native county; was elected to the house of burgesses in 1761, and continued a member of that body till 1788. His career in the legislative assembly was not specially noteworthy until he addressed himself to a motion "to lay so heavy a duty on the importation of slaves as effectually to put an end to that iniquitous and disgraceful traffic within the colony of Virginia." He had such a hatred of the institution of slavery that this proposition so aroused him that his natural timidity was overcome for the time, and his address was a torrent of eloquence, and at once gave him a high rank as an orator. This speech was probably the strongest one against human slavery that ever fell from the lips of a Virginian. In fact, the abolitionists in the North never improved on the eloquence and clearness of his arguments against the "peculiar institution." From this time on he became a bold and successful leader. He opposed the stamp

act, and in 1765 personally organized an association of prominent citizens of his county the avowed object of which was to prevent any person from selling stamped paper. At the head of a mounted company he waited upon the King's stamp collector, who had boasted that he would force the stamped paper on the people, and compelled him to surrender all such paper in his possession, which was burned, and to promise he would make no further effort to carry out his threat. He moved in the house of burgesses, upon the receipt of the news of the Townsend acts of 1767, a petition to the King which contained a plain and full statement of the grievances of the colonies. In July, 1768, he was active in the organization of committees of correspondence the purpose of which was to bring the colonies into better understanding, in order that they might act unitedly in resisting the encroachments of the Crown and in furthering the mutual interest of the colonies, or, as he wrote to John Dickinson early in July, 1768, that a system of correspondence was desirable "for mutual information and communication between the lovers of liberty in every province." Samuel Adams and Jonathan Mayhew were coadjutors of his in furthering this idea. The Virginia house of burgesses in 1773 acted upon the suggestion, and Mr. Lee was placed on the committee of correspondence for Virginia. He was appointed in 1774 a delegate to the First Continental

Congress, which convened in Philadelphia, and by this body was placed on committees to state the rights of the colonies, to enforce commercial non-intercourse with Great Britain, to prepare suitable addresses to the King and to the colonies of Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Georgia, and the Floridas that had not sent delegates to the Congress. He was returned to the second Congress, and was designated by it to draft an address to the people of Great Britain, which document was of rare merit. This address and the petition to the King were carried over to London by Richard Penn, in August, 1775. For more than a year he had openly advocated a declaration of independence, and the Virginia convention of May 17, 1776, acting upon this line, instructed its delegates in Congress to move for absolute independence. In pursuance of these instructions, Mr. Lee brought forward, on June 7, 1776, in Congress, a resolution "that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States; and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved." John Adams, of Massachusetts, seconded the resolution, and became the colossus in debate in support of it. Mr. Lee was called home by the illness of his wife, and Jefferson was appointed chairman of the committee to prepare a draft of a declaration of independence. Thus it fell to Jefferson,

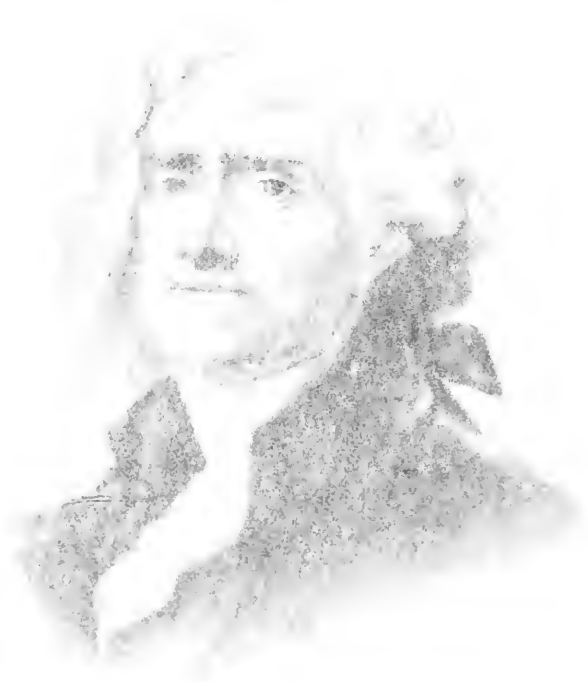
as chairman of the committee, to do what otherwise would have fallen upon Mr. Lee. The records show that Mr. Lee served on more than one hundred committees during the ensuing four years, and all of his service fully demonstrates that he would have been perfectly able to have prepared an acceptable draft of a declaration of independence to serve as a basis for the action of Congress. He was detained in Virginia during the sessions of 1780 and 1782 by conditions in the State. He took an active part in providing means for the defense of his State against the invaders, and was a leading member of the legislature. He was a leader in debate against making depreciated paper money a legal tender for debts, and also against a proposition to repudiate all debts to British merchants contracted prior to the beginning of hostilities. In these debates he uttered the words now famous that it is better to be "the honest slaves of Great Britain than to be dishonest freemen." After the war he showed high qualities as a financier in the consideration of the subject of refunding the public debt of his State, and in providing a broad and stable basis for the public credit. He was elected president of the Continental Congress November 30, 1784, and in that position displayed the qualities of mind necessary in every successful presiding officer. At the end of this term he retired to Virginia, but was again elected to Congress in 1787.

He was opposed to the adoption of the Federal Constitution, as reported from the convention which framed it, on the ground that in his judgment the instrument gave too much power to the Federal Government. He sincerely believed that this concentration of Federal power would prove a menace to the rights of the States necessary for their own government. It may be said that his staunch friend, Samuel Adams, as well as Patrick Henry, shared with him this fear. Adams, however, did not go as far in his opposition to the draft of the Constitution as Mr. Lee. It would seem that the people of Virginia were with Mr. Lee in his apprehension, inasmuch as they chose him one of the first two United States Senators from that State under the new Constitution. He was chosen over so popular and worthy a man as James Madison, which goes to show that he was really an idol of the people of his State. While a Senator he proposed the tenth amendment to the Constitution, which reads as follows: "The powers not delegated by the Constitution of the United States, nor prohibited to it by the States, are reserved to the States, respectively." After substituting the word "granted" for "delegated" and adding at the end the words "or to the people," the amendment was adopted. The object of the amendment was to limit Federal powers, which to a Federalist mind like that of Lee's were dangerously large. Notwithstanding his Federalist

leaning he became a strong supporter of Washington's Administration, which shows the progressiveness and breadth of his mind. Failing health compelled him to resign his seat in the Senate in 1792. He retired to his estate at Chantilly, where he spent the last two years of his life. By those who knew him well he was described as a tall man with symmetrical figure, possessing a classical and pleasant face, and a voice full of richness and impressiveness. One of the most conspicuous characteristics of Mr. Lee was his sincerity and earnestness in the treatment of any public question to which he addressed himself.

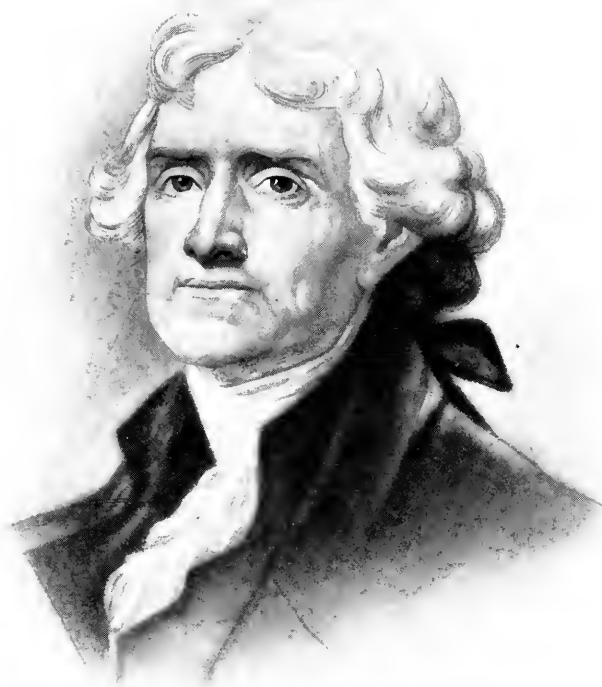
William Wirt furnishes, perhaps, the most interesting description of Lee of any of his contemporaries. He says of him: "His face was on the Roman model, his nose was Cæsarean, the port and carriage of his head perfect, and the whole contour noble and fine. He had studied the classics in the true spirit of criticism, he possessed a rich store of historical and political knowledge, with an activity of observation and a certainty of judgment that turned that knowledge to the best account. He was not a lawyer by profession, but he understood thoroughly the constitution both of the mother country and of her colonies, and the elements also of the civil and municipal law. He reasoned well and declaimed freely and splendidly. His voice was the canorous voice of Cicero."

When the resolution respecting independence was



TH. JEFFERSON







under discussion, among other things Lee said: "Why, then, do we longer delay? Why still deliberate? Let this happy day give birth to an American Republic. Let her arise, not to devastate and to conquer, but to reestablish the reign of peace and law. The eyes of Europe are fixed upon us. She demands of us a living example of freedom that may exhibit a contrast in the felicity of the citizen to the ever increasing tyranny which devastates her polluted shores. She invites us to prepare an asylum where the unhappy may find solace and the persecuted repose. She entreats us to cultivate a propitious soil where that generous plant of liberty, which first sprang and grew in England, but is now withered by the blasts of tyranny, may revive and flourish, sheltering under its salubrious shade all the unfortunate of the human race. If we are not this day wanting in our duty to our country, the names of the American legislators of 1776 will be placed by posterity at the side of Theseus, of Lycurgus, of Romulus, of Numa, of the three Williams of Nassau, and all of those whose memory has been, and forever will be, dear to virtuous men and good citizens."

He was twice married, and at his death was survived by six children, four by his first and two by his second wife. He died in Chantilly, Va., June 19, 1794.

THOMAS JEFFERSON was born in Shadwell, Albemarle County, Va., April 2, 1743; was educated at

a preparatory school and completed his education at the College of William and Mary; was an industrious scholar, with a taste for literature and aptitude for mathematics; was fond of music and played fairly well on the violin; at 17 he is described as a tall, rawboned, freckled-faced, sandy-haired boy, with large feet and hands, thick wrists, and prominent cheek bones and chin; was healthy looking, very erect, athletic and strong, and rather awkward; was fond of horses and a keen hunter; studied law under George Wythe, at Williamsburg; was admitted to the bar in 1767, and commenced the practice of his profession; the first year of his practice he was employed in 68 cases before the general court of the Province, and his business rapidly increased till he was employed in about 500 cases a year, making his annual income from this source from \$2,500 to \$3,000; was not a fluent speaker, and as he spoke his voice grew huskier; practiced law about eight years, or until the Revolutionary war broke out; at 26—May 11, 1769—took his seat in the house of burgesses with George Washington; was an advocate of the resolutions introduced on the third day of the session, to the effect that the colonies could not be lawfully taxed by Parliament in which they were not represented; in his first important speech in the house he advocated the repeal of the law that compelled the master who wished to

free his slaves to send them out of the Colony; married Mrs. Martha Skelton, a handsome and childless widow, January 1, 1772, and took her to his home at Monticello; by this marriage he added 40,000 acres of land to the 1,900 left him by his father at his death, and 135 slaves to the 30 he already possessed; was now wealthy and happily married; devoted most of his time to improving his vast estates, though conducting a good law business the while; was thus engaged when the momentous events of 1774 aroused him to open and earnest resistance to the authority of the King; at the age of 31 he drafted the instructions for the Virginia delegates in the Congress which met at Philadelphia, September, 1774, the gist of which was that the parliament of Virginia had as much right to pass laws for the government of England as the British Parliament had to pass laws for the government of Virginia; was a member of the convention which convened in Richmond in 1775 to consider what course Virginia should pursue in the crisis; it was in this convention that the eloquent Patrick Henry declared, "We must fight. The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms;" it was agreed that Virginia should arm, and a committee of 13 was appointed, composed in part of Patrick Henry, George Washington, Richard Henry Lee, Benjamin

Harrison, Edmund Pendleton, and Jefferson, to form a plan for preparing for the impending conflict; on June 21, 1775, Jefferson took his seat in Congress, the day after Washington was given his commission as commander in chief; the day Jefferson took his seat the battle of Bunker Hill occurred; he soon took a commanding place among his associates in Congress; John Adams said of him, "So prompt, frank, explicit, and decisive upon committees and in conversation that he soon seized upon my heart;" after the close of this Congress he returned home and was reelected to the next Congress; started for Philadelphia ten days after his return home to take his seat; the Virginia legislature declared in favor of independence, and June 7 Richard Henry Lee moved, in obedience to instructions from his legislature, that independence be declared; June 10 a committee of 5 was appointed to draft a declaration; Jefferson, Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman, and Robert R. Livingston were appointed such committee; Jefferson being chairman, was asked to prepare the draft, which he wrote on a small lap or table desk, now in the keeping of the Department of State, in a room on the second floor of a house which stood on or near the corner of Market and Seventh streets, Philadelphia; the draft as submitted was debated July 2 and 3, and adopted the evening of the 4th, and

was signed August 2 following; soon after signing the Declaration of Independence Jefferson resigned and returned to his beloved Monticello, his reason being that the health of his wife demanded his presence at home; was elected a member of the Virginia legislature before he resigned; he entered vigorously upon the work of reformation in the laws and institutions of his State in the hope of bringing the State up to his conceptions of what a free and independent sovereign State should be; October 8, 1776, he was informed that Congress had appointed him, with Franklin and Deane, a commissioner to represent the colonies at Paris; this he felt obliged to decline; his measures and work in the legislature resulted in the complete destruction of the system of entail and the abolishment of the connection between church and state; he drew the bill for the establishment of courts of law in the State, and defining their methods and jurisdiction; he proposed and carried the measure doing away with the principle of primogeniture, the abolishment of the cruel penalties of the ancient code, and made an earnest attempt to establish a system of public schools; was elected governor by the legislature in 1779, and the two years of his governorship were full of severe trials and hazardous experience; his home was captured by the enemy and laid in ruins; was himself nearly captured; declined a

third term as governor; September 6, 1782, his wife died, leaving him three daughters, the youngest 4 months old; soon after this crushing blow Congress unanimously elected him plenipotentiary to France, which he accepted, but before he sailed the news came that the preliminaries of peace had been agreed to, and he returned to his home; June, 1783, was elected to Congress and took his seat in that body at Annapolis; was active in devising the decimal currency now in use, and proposed the present system of dollars and cents; May 7, 1784, Congress elected him plenipotentiary to France to join Adams and Franklin in negotiating treaties of commerce with foreign powers; sailed from Boston July 5, 1784, and arrived in Paris thirty-two days later; May 2, 1785, received from Secretary of State Jay a commission appointing him sole minister plenipotentiary to the King of France for three years from March 10, 1785; Count de Vergennes, when he presented his credentials, said to him, "You replace Doctor Franklin," to which Jefferson replied, "I succeed, no one can replace him;" remained in Paris five years; during this time he strove hard, though in vain, to release American captives in Algiers without paying enormous ransoms to the Dey; endeavored to remove the prohibitive tariff on American food products; supplied the American colleges with new inventions, discoveries, and books as they

appeared in Europe; sent home seeds, nuts, and roots for experimentation in America; sent home new kinds of rice to the planters in South Carolina; while in France the Virginia legislature passed the "act for freedom of religion" which he had presented to that body when a member; he had copies of this printed in French and distributed, which was received with rapture by the Liberals, and especially by Lafayette, with whom Jefferson was on terms of most intimate friendship; in November, 1789, accompanied by his daughters Martha and Maria (his daughter Lucy having died in Paris), he returned home on leave of absence, and was received at Norfolk by a committee, Patrick Henry being chairman, with distinguished consideration and by the people with enthusiasm; on the day of his arrival he read in the newspapers that President Washington had appointed him Secretary of State; he expressed a preference for his place as minister to France, but yielded to the President's wish, and left Monticello in February, 1790, for New York to enter upon his new duties as Secretary of State, arriving there March 21, 1790; he took the house No. 57 Maiden lane, in which he performed most of the diplomatic work of the office; his salary was \$3,500, \$500 more than that of Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Knox, Secretary of War, or Edmund Randolph,

Attorney-General; he now declared himself to be a Republican-Democrat, and declared his doctrine to be "the will of the majority to be the national law of every society; perhaps even this may sometimes err; but its errors are honest, solitary, and short-lived; let us, then, bow down to the general reason of society; we are safe with that, even in its deviations, for it soon returns again to the right way."

Jefferson and Hamilton differed on so many questions that came before the Cabinet, and were constantly in such hostility to each other that both ardently desired to withdraw, but both yielded to the sincere wish of the President to remain; January 1, 1794, Washington accepted Jefferson's resignation; five days afterwards he set out for home, *having been Secretary of State three years and ten months*; his letters to the English plenipotentiary, George Hammond, and the French plenipotentiary, Edmund Genet, which were published in pamphlet form, gave Jefferson prestige on his retirement, and, as ex-Chief Justice Marshall said, "lessened the hostility of Jefferson's enemies without diminishing the attachment of his friends;" September, 1794, after the retirement of Hamilton from the Cabinet, Washington tendered to Jefferson the responsible place of special envoy to Spain; in declining the place he said "no circumstances would evermore tempt him to engage in anything public;" yet, in 1796, he allowed his

name to be used as a candidate for the Presidency; received 68 electoral votes against 71 electoral votes for John Adams; under the law he became Vice-President; in 1800 he was elected President by the House of Representatives, having 73 electoral votes and Aaron Burr a like number, John Adams 65, Charles C. Pinckney 64, and John Jay 1. Among his first acts as President was the pardoning of every man who was in durance under the sedition law, relieved and consoled the victims of the alien law, which was to him a final triumph over Hamilton. His Cabinet were James Madison, Secretary of State; Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury; Henry Dearborn, Secretary of War; Robert Smith, Secretary of the Navy; Gideon Granger, Postmaster-General, and Levi Lincoln, Attorney-General, who served with him during his two terms of office and who worked in perfect accord with their chief on all important public questions. Jefferson adopted as his rule "that a difference of politics was not a reason for the removal of a competent and faithful subordinate," and he carried it out faithfully. He sent a message to Congress instead of making a speech, which custom has been followed since. In every way possible he endeavored to make his Administration genuinely democratic-republican. He put all but six vessels of the Navy out of commission; four of these he sent to the Mediterranean to overawe the Barbary pirates, which proved eminently

successful under the sturdy and gallant Decatur. Under his Administration the golden opportunity for acquiring the vast territory west of the Mississippi, vaguely known as the "Louisiana purchase," was seized upon through the negotiations of special envoy James Monroe, who purchased the infinitely valuable tract for \$11,500,000; the purchase was the more easily effected because of Bonaparte's need of money with which to fight England; when he signed the conveyance Bonaparte said: "This accession strengthens forever the power of the United States, and I have just given to England a maritime rival that will sooner or later humble her pride." This achievement, though accomplished against the constitutional views of Jefferson, was the crowning act of his Administration, and for that matter, of the party which he is given the credit of founding. He popularized his Administration and made his reelection easy. His second term was less peaceful than his first. He detested war and in consequence endured insults from Great Britain and Spain without prompt and vigorous resentment; yet there was a moment when he contemplated a plan of resistance which, if it had been carried out successfully, would have annexed Florida, Mexico, and Cuba by force. Actual war and the attempted execution of the plan was averted by Great Britain making partial reparation for the *Leopard* firing a broadside into the *Chesapeake* near Old Point

Comfort, killing and wounding 18 men. Instead of fighting he recommended to Congress to suspend commercial intercourse with the belligerents. The embargo of 1807 was declared, but proved unpopular with our own people, who violated it with absolute impunity. Jefferson always believed that if the people had supported him in this policy the war of 1812 would have been avoided. When Jefferson retired from the Presidency, at the age of 66, March 4, 1809, after almost a continuous service of forty years, he found himself so poor and in debt that but for a timely loan from a Richmond bank he would have been liable to arrest for debt by his creditors. This embarrassed condition prompted him to write: "I have been under an agony of mortification." He lived seventeen years after his retirement, and these he devoted to his farm, and to an endeavor to establish in Virginia a system of education that would embrace all the children of his State. He did not live to see his dream of common school education realized, yet he was happy in seeing the University of Virginia rise to dignity and usefulness as an educational institution. His financial embarrassment became very distressing, and he was forced to sell his library in 1814, which was purchased by Congress for \$23,000. He lost \$20,000 of this by indorsing a note for a neighbor. When about to lose his "beloved Monticello" to satisfy debt, Philip Hone, mayor of

New York, raised for him, in 1826, \$8,500; Philadelphia, \$5,000, and Baltimore, \$3,000. This gave him not only financial relief, but real joy. He characterized the gift as a "pure and unsolicited offering of love."

He died at 12 o'clock and 40 minutes p. m., July 4, 1826, fifty years after the adoption of the Declaration of Independence; was buried at Monticello on ground set apart by himself for a graveyard. A stone was laid upon his grave, which bore this inscription, written by himself: "Here was buried Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, of the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom, and Father of the University of Virginia." Evidently he considered these three things the greatest achievements of his long and active life.

BENJAMIN HARRISON was born in Berkely, Charles County, Va., about 1740; was educated by private tutors and at William and Mary College; was elected in 1764, while a very young man, to the house of burgesses, of which he was twice speaker; in 1773 was chosen a member of the Committee of Correspondence, and was very active in uniting the colonies for resistance to the encroachments of the Crown; was a Delegate to the first Continental Congress from 1774-1777; as chairman of the Committee of the Whole he reported the Declaration of Independence, and was one of its strongest advocates; after leaving



BENJ. HARRISON

BENJ. HARRISON







THOS. NELSON, JR

THOS. NELSON, JR





Congress he was again elected to the house of burgesses, and was presiding officer of that body until 1782, when he was elected governor, and was three times elected to this office; was a member of the State convention which met to consider the adoption of the Federal Constitution; was opposed to its adoption, but when it was adopted became an ardent supporter of the Government under it; was a member of the State legislature; was a brother of Gen. Charles Harrison, who served with distinction under Washington, and whose son, William Henry Harrison, was ninth President of the United States, and whose grandson, named for the great grandfather, was the twenty-third President of the United States; died in April, 1791.

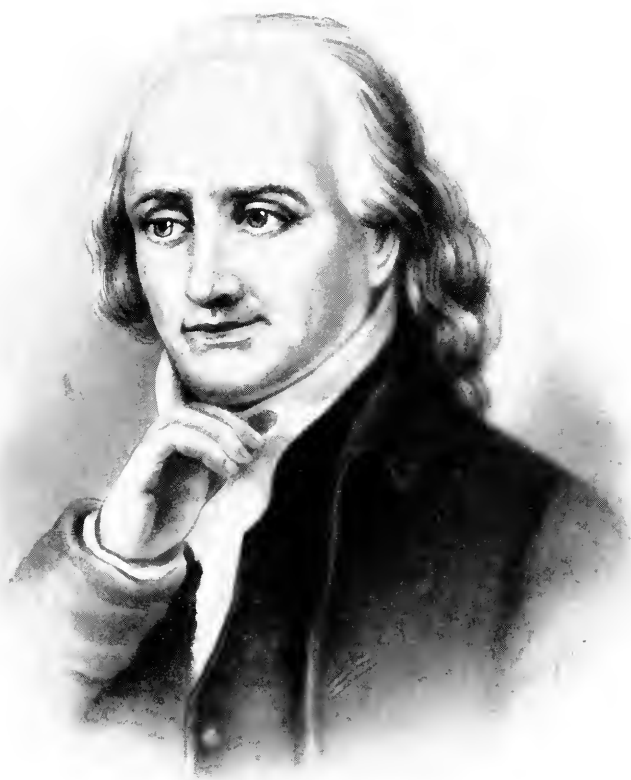
THOMAS NELSON, Jr., was born in Yorktown, York County, Va., December 26, 1738; was educated at Eton and Cambridge, from which latter institution he was graduated; returned to the United States in 1761; was elected to the house of burgesses while en route home, before he had attained his majority; was a leading spirit in that body in 1774 in rebellious speech and action against the unwarrantable invasion of the rights of the colonists by Great Britain; was reelected to the house of burgesses; was a member of the first general convention, which met in Williamsburg August 1, 1774, and also of the convention of 1775, in both of which he took a leading part in advocating forcible resistance to the tyranny of the

mother country; was elected colonel of the Second Virginia Regiment in July, 1775, but resigned upon being elected a member of the Continental Congress; here he advocated vigorous measures for the maintenance of the rights of the colonists; was a member of the State constitutional convention in 1776; resigned his seat in Congress in 1777 because of continued ill health; was made county lieutenant in August, 1777, and on the State being threatened by the British fleet was appointed commander in chief of the State troops, and on the call for troops raised a battalion of cavalry, which he accompanied to Philadelphia; was again elected to Congress in 1779, and was forced to resign because of ill health; in May of that year he was called upon to organize the militia of his State to repel invasion by the enemy; became governor in June, 1781, and proved a vigorous and courageous officer in directing the militia force of the Commonwealth against the invasion of the enemy; commanded the militia of his State at the siege of Yorktown, and showed skill and courage. For his conduct in this siege Washington said, in general orders: "The General would be guilty of the highest ingratitude if he forgot to return his sincere acknowledgments to His Excellency Governor Nelson for the succor which he received from him, and to whose activity, emulation, and bravery the highest praises are due." Died in Hanover County, Va., January 4,



FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE



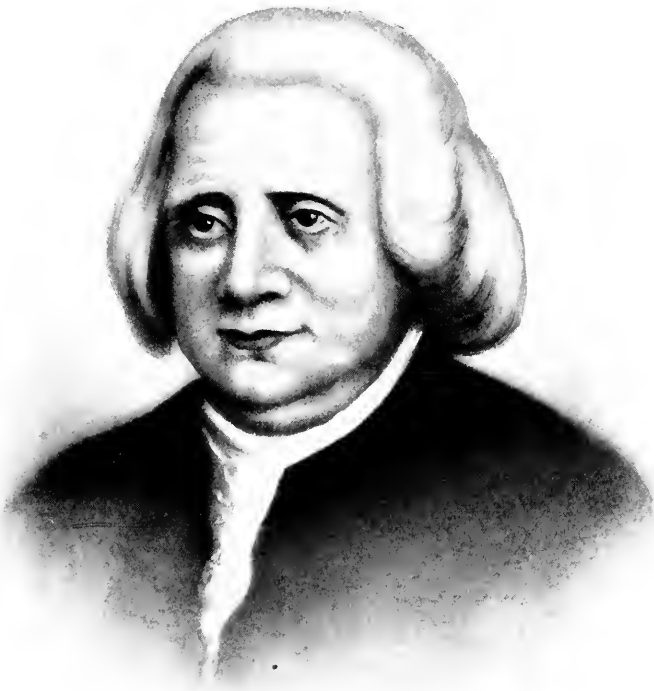






CARTER BRAXTON

CARTER BRAXTON





1789, and is buried in Yorktown in an unmarked grave, although the State of Virginia placed his statue by Crawford on the Washington Monument in Richmond, which was small recognition for the public services and great sacrifices made by him for his State and country.

FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE was born at Stratford, Westmoreland County, Va., October 14, 1734; received a good education in the schools of his native town and under private tutorage; was elected to the house of burgesses from Loudoun County in 1765, and later from Richmond County, and served until 1772; signed the Westmoreland declaration against the stamp act; was elected to Congress August 15, 1775, in which body he served until 1779; served on the committee which formulated the Articles of Confederation; was one of the most ardent supporters of the rights of the colonists, and distinguished himself in calling attention to our rights in respect to the Newfoundland fisheries and the enjoyment of free navigation of the Mississippi; served in the legislature of his State under the Federal Constitution; died in Richmond County, Va., April 3, 1797.

CARTER BRAXTON was born in Newington, King and Queen County, Va., September 10, 1736; received a liberal education, obtained in this country and in England; inherited several plantations, from which he

derived a large income, and which enabled him to live in luxury and to travel extensively abroad; was a member of the house of burgesses which adopted the rebellious resolutions brought forward by Patrick Henry, which were full of "Give me liberty or give me death" and "If this be treason, make the most of it;" was a member of the convention which declared for larger freedom for the colonies; was elected to Congress December 15, 1775, as the successor to Peyton Randolph; he did not remain long in Congress, but served in the legislature of his State until 1786, when he became a member of the executive council; his last years were full of trouble, arising from the complete wreck of his fortunes; he died October 10, 1797.

#### SIGNERS FROM NORTH CAROLINA.

WILLIAM HOOPER was born in Boston, Mass., June 17, 1742; graduated from Harvard College in 1760; studied law under James Otis in Boston; removed to Wilmington, N. C., in 1767; rose to professional eminence in his new field, and was elected to the Continental Congress in 1775, in which body he was distinguished by his directness of speech and clear judgment; died in Hillsboro, in his adopted State, October, 1790.

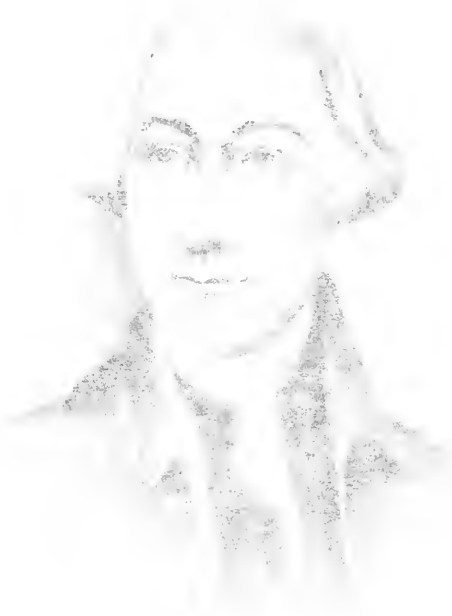
JOSEPH HEWES was born in Kingston, N. J., in 1730; was educated at Princeton College; was for a

WM. HOOPER

WM. HOOPER

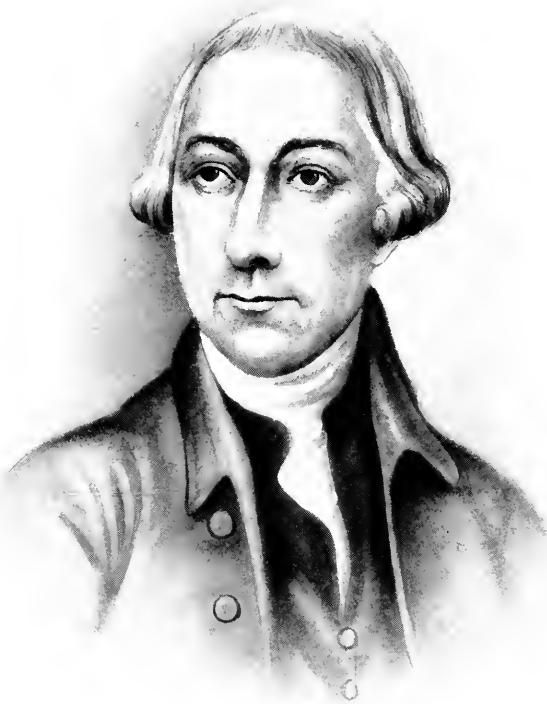






JOSEPH HEWES

JOSEPH HEWES







JOHN PENN

JOHN PENN





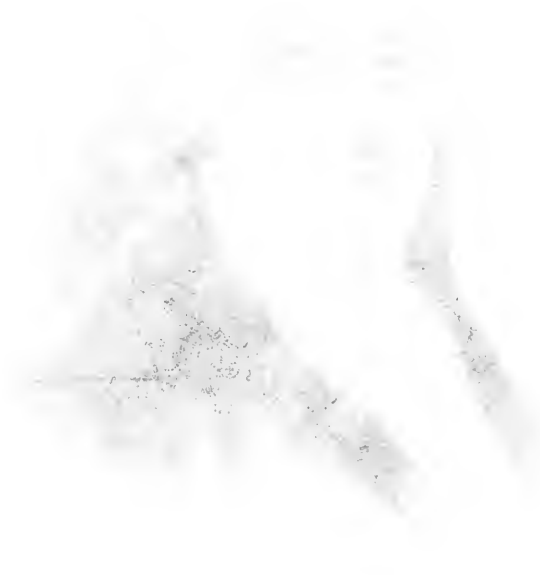
time engaged in business in Philadelphia; removed permanently to Edenton, N. C., in 1760; was a member of the legislature of his adopted State; was elected to Congress in 1774, and reelected each year till 1777, and again in 1779; was a member of the committee directed to make a report on "the rights of the colonies in general, the several instances in which these rights are violated or infringed, and the means most proper to be pursued for obtaining a restoration of them;" was held in high esteem by the people of North Carolina, who never failed to accord him a high place in the councils of the State; died in Philadelphia November 10, 1779.

JOHN PENN was born in Caroline County, Va., May 17, 1741; received some education in a country school, but was largely self-educated; studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1762; removed to Granville County in 1774, and soon became a leading attorney in that part of the State; was chosen to fill a vacancy in Congress September 8, 1775, and took his seat October 12 of that year; was reelected in 1777 and 1779; was given large authority in directing the affairs of his State when Cornwallis made his invasion, and he discharged the difficult duties thus imposed in a highly creditable manner; was appointed receiver of taxes in March, 1784, but resigned soon afterwards because his State refused to pay its proportion of funds required to maintain the independence it professed to

be in favor of; retired to private life on a competence accumulated by his own efforts; died in Caroline County, Va., September, 1788.

#### SIGNERS FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.

EDWARD RUTLEDGE was born in Charleston November 23, 1749; was educated in the schools of his native town and under private tutors; studied law under his brother, and was entered at Temple, London, in 1769, where he spent four years in study; returned to Charleston and entered upon the practice of his profession; was elected to Congress in 1774, and was reelected till 1777; was appointed on the first Board of War June 12, 1776; was selected with John Adams and Benjamin Franklin to confer with Lord Howe on the subject of a reconciliation proposed by that officer, but declined absolutely to treat with him on any basis other than an unqualified recognition of American independence; was again elected to Congress in 1779, but was prevented by sickness from taking his seat; was captain and lieutenant-colonel in the Charleston Artillery, and took active part in driving the British from the island of Port Royal in 1779; in 1780, while on special duty under Gen. Benjamin Lincoln, he was captured by the British and confined for a year at St. Augustine; was a member of the legislature of his State in 1782; after the evacuation of Charleston he resumed the



EDWARD RUTLEDGE

EDWARD RUTLEDGE







THOS. HEYWARD, JUNR

THOS. HEYWARD, JUNR





practice of law there, and held a high place at the bar for seventeen years; was a member of the legislature for many years, and was effectual in his efforts to defeat the revival of the slave trade while a member of that body; was a member of the State constitutional convention in 1790; was the author of the act in his State, as Jefferson was in Virginia, abolishing the law of primogeniture in 1791; was tendered the appointment of associate justice of the United States Supreme Court in 1794; was elected governor of his State in 1798, but died before the expiration of his term of office, January 23, 1800, in Charleston.

THOMAS HEYWARD, Jr., was born in St. Lukes Parish, S. C., in 1746; was brought up on a plantation, and was educated by private tutors; studied law in the Temple, London, and traveled extensively abroad; returned to his native State and established himself in the practice of law. The times were revolutionary, and he plunged into politics with earnestness and enthusiasm; was a leader in the Revolutionary party from his entrance into public life; was elected a member of the first assembly after the abdication of the Crown's governor; was a member of the Committee of Safety; was elected a member of Congress to fill a vacancy in 1775, and was reelected till 1778; was elected a judge of the civil and criminal courts in that year; presided as judge in the trial of some colonists who were charged with aiding and

abetting the enemy, and who were found guilty and executed within sight of the British lines; held a commission in the militia, and was wounded in the engagement at Beaufort; was taken prisoner at the surrender of Charleston to Sir Henry Clinton, May 12, 1780, and was held as prisoner at St. Augustine for one year; while he was a prisoner the British robbed his plantation of everything they could carry away, and wantonly destroyed his improvements; when released from prison he sailed for Philadelphia; on the way he fell overboard and saved his life by clinging to the ship's rudder; resumed his judicial duties on his return to his State, and continued on the bench till 1788; was a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1789; died in March, 1800.

THOMAS LYNCH, JR., was born in Prince Georges Parish, S. C., August 3, 1740; was educated at Eton and the University of Cambridge, and completed his law studies at Temple Court, London; returned to his home in South Carolina in 1770; was appointed a captain in the First Regiment of Provincial Regulars, raised by his State, in 1773; was appointed to succeed his father in the Continental Congress in 1776; one of his last public acts was to affix his name to the Declaration of Independence; was compelled by ill health to resign his place in Congress, and as a dernier resort in an effort to recover his health sailed for St. Eustatius, West Indies, in 1778, hoping to



THOMAS LYNCH, JR









ARTHUR MIDDLETON

ARTHUR MIDDLETON





find a neutral vessel there which would convey him to France; the vessel in which he sailed was never heard from, and it was believed to have been lost with all on board.

ARTHUR MIDDLETON was born at Middleton Place, on the Ashley River, S. C., June 26, 1743; was prepared for college at Harrow and Westminster schools, and graduated with honors from Cambridge; traveled two years in Europe, and returned well equipped educationally to his native State in 1763; was at once given political recognition, and became a leader of the revolutionary party; was a prominent member of the first council of safety; was elected to the provincial congress in 1775, and succeeded his father as a member of the Continental Congress in 1776; declined the office of governor in 1778; exhibited a military spirit and bravery in the defense of Charleston in 1780, and fell into the hands of the British when that city capitulated, and was in prison for a time at St. Augustine and in the "Jersey" prison ship; the British destroyed most wantonly his collection of pictures and other household valuables at his home on the Ashley when they marched on Charleston; was again elected to Congress in 1780, after his release as a prisoner of war, and rendered conspicuous and valuable service in that body until the close of the Revolution; prompted by the barbarous treatment of noncombatants and the useless burning and mutilation

of property, he introduced in Congress a resolution "that Lord Cornwallis should be regarded in the light of a barbarian, who had violated all the rules of modern warfare, and had been guilty of innumerable cases of wanton cruelty and oppression; and further, that he, the said Lord Cornwallis, should not be comprehended in any exchange of prisoners which should take place between the British Government and that of the United States."

Mr. Middleton rendered valuable service in the senate of his State in bringing order out of chaos after the war closed, and no inconsiderable credit is due to his intelligent efforts for many of the best of the early laws of the State. He married Miss Mary Izard, a beautiful and for that day accomplished young lady, the year after his return from England in 1763. Mr. Middleton was a stenographer, a rare accomplishment at that time, and reported many public proceedings. He was a clever writer, and under the nom de plume of "Andrew Marvell" published numerous political essays which attracted a good deal of attention and had wide influence; died January 1, 1787.

#### SIGNERS FROM GEORGIA.

BUTTON GWINNETT was born in England about the year 1732; received a rudimentary education, and engaged in business in Bristol, from which place he emigrated to America in 1770, bringing with him



BUTTON GWINNETT

BUTTON GWINNETT





considerable means; located first in Charleston, S. C., and in 1772 removed to Savannah, Ga.; purchased a plantation on St. Catherines Island, and engaged extensively in agriculture; was an earnest advocate, after 1775, of the rights of the colonists; was appointed by the general assembly at Savannah a Representative in Congress February 2, 1776, and took his seat May 20 of that year; was reelected October 9 of the same year for the ensuing year and took his seat at Baltimore in December; was a member of the State convention which met in Savannah in February, 1777, to frame a constitution for the State; while in this office he prepared the basis of the constitution which was finally adopted by his State; was made president of the provincial council March 4, 1774, to succeed President Bullock; was an unsuccessful candidate for governor in 1777. While a member of Congress he became a candidate for the position of brigadier-general in opposition to Gen. Lachlin McIntosh, and his failure to obtain the commission, together with other irritating matters, so incensed him against his opponent that he challenged him to a duel; the interference of friends was unavailing in adjusting the feud between them, and they fought it out on May 15, 1777. They fought with pistols at a distance of 12 feet. Both were wounded, McIntosh slightly, and Gwinnett so badly as to result in death twelve days after the duel, on May 27, 1777.

Mr. Gwinnett rose from the quiet life of a planter in five years to the most exalted places within the gift of the people of his State. He had proved himself a patriot of first degree; had sacrificed his home and everything else but land upon the altar of his country, and but for the unfortunate combination of unfavorable events which led to his untimely taking off his patriotism and talents would have given him yet higher place in the councils of the United Colonies. He was of commanding figure, being 6 feet high and properly proportioned; was mild and persuasive in language, polite in manners, yet dignified and impressive. He left a widow, who did not long survive him, and several children.

LYMAN HALL was born at Wallingford, Conn., April 12, 1724; graduated from Yale; fitted for the profession of medicine and commenced practice in his native town; finally established himself near Sunbury, Ga., in a settlement of New Englanders, where he attained prominence as a physician and as a patriot; with his New England neighbors he was ready for rebellion against the oppression of Great Britain, and was a member of the conventions held in Savannah in 1774 and 1775, and was largely influential in moving the State of Georgia to join the other colonies in resistance to the Crown; was elected by the parish of St. John to the Continental Congress in 1776; took an active part in all the proceedings of the Congress,



LYMAN HALL

LYMAN HALL

BRISTOL, CT







GEO. WALTON

GEO. WALTON





except he did not vote, until he became the representative of Georgia as a colony; was annually returned to Congress till 1780; when the British invaded Georgia he was forced to remove his family to the North; all of his property was confiscated and laid waste by the British; returned in 1782 with his family to Georgia, and entered vigorously into the work of rehabilitating his State; in 1783 was elected governor and contributed very largely as a leader in restoring prosperity and giving a new impulse to his State; at the close of his office as governor he retired from public life; died in Burke County, Ga., October 19, 1790.

GEORGE WALTON was born in Frederick County, Va., in 1740; received a limited common school education, but was a persistent reader and devoured eagerly every book he could get hold of; was systematic in his effort of self-education under the most trying circumstances of poverty and hard labor as a carpenter's apprentice; at the end of his apprenticeship he removed to Georgia, where he studied law under the direction of a good lawyer by the name of Henry Young; was admitted to the bar in 1774, and engaged in practice at Augusta with considerable success from the start; was one of four young patriots who called a public meeting at Savannah July 27, 1774, for the declared object of discussing grievances against the mother country, and was placed on a committee by the convention with instructions to correspond with

the different parishes of the State for the purpose of inducing them to join the colonies in open opposition to the exercise of oppressive and arbitrary power of Great Britain; was a member of a second convention held January 12, 1775, in which he was a leading spirit and urged in most stirring and eloquent words the convention to adopt resolutions recommending resolute hostility to the Crown; but the majority of the convention was against the decisive measures urged by him. He helped to frame a petition to the King which set forth the grievances of the people, and continued to proclaim the rights of the colonies and to promote local sentiment in favor of rebellion; was appointed a delegate to Congress in February, 1776, and was reelected successively till 1781; was appointed colonel of militia in 1778, and commanded a battalion under Gen. Robert Howe in the defense of Savannah, in which battle he was wounded in the thigh while leading his men gallantly against the invaders. He was taken prisoner in this engagement and confined as a prisoner of war until September, 1779; was elected governor of the State on his return from his trying confinement; was appointed chief justice of the State in 1783; was elected a delegate to the convention to frame the Constitution of the United States in 1787, but did not take his seat; was again elected governor in 1789; was made judge of the supreme court of the State in 1793; was elected to the United



CHARLES THOMSON








States Senate and served from 1795 to 1796; was a United States commissioner to negotiate a treaty with the Cherokee Indians in Tennessee; served in the State legislature several terms; died in Augusta, Ga., February 2, 1804.

THE SECRETARY OF THE CONGRESS.

CHARLES THOMSON was born of Irish parentage in Maghera, County Derry, Ireland, November 29, 1729. On his way to this country in company with his father and three brothers the father died at sea, and the three boys were thrown upon their own resources, with what aid an older brother, who had preceded them to America, could give them. Dr. Francis Allison was moved to take Charles into his seminary at New London, Pa., and the brightness and manliness of the boy soon won the love and respect of his benefactor. He completed the course given in Dr. Allison's school, and was engaged as principal of the Friends' Academy at New Castle, Del. His success as a teacher was very marked, and articles he wrote on various subjects, principally respecting the Indians, which were printed in Franklin's paper, attracted the attention of that discriminating man and other prominent citizens of Philadelphia, and won for him their friendship. The interest he took in the welfare of the Indians, and the just and truthful manner in which he dealt with them, led the Dela-

wares to adopt him in 1756 into their tribe. They bestowed upon him the name of "Man of Truth." His intimate acquaintance with the Indians and their high regard for him, led to his appointment as a commissioner among them. The Indians simply shared with the whites in their esteem for Mr. Thomson, upon whose love for truth peculiar emphasis was placed. Dr. Green in his biography refers to this, and says that it was a common remark, "as true as if Charles Thomson's name was to it." The people had such confidence in his ability and integrity that he exercised great influence in promoting the sentiment of independence. John Adams referred to him as "the Sam Adams of Philadelphia, the life of the cause of liberty." He was selected in September, 1774, as Secretary of the First Continental Congress, without any effort on his part, and he entered upon the discharge of his duties with his wonted zeal and industry. He was popular with the members, who respected him for his high character, and consulted him on legislative matters because of his attainments and good judgment. Abbe Robin, chaplain of Rochambeau, said of him, "He was the soul of that political body." His patriotism was of the very highest type, as is fully attested by his refusal to accept any salary for his first year's service as Secretary, and consented to receive salary for subsequent service only because it was necessary to provide for a family.



Congress presented his wife with a silver urn, properly inscribed, which remains in the family to this day. He continued in the position of Secretary until 1789, when he retired to private life. During his secretaryship, in addition to his routine work, he kept extensive notes of debates and proceedings in the Congress, and of much else relating to the personnel of that body. These notes he embodied in a manuscript history of the Revolution, but after it was finished he destroyed it, lest, as he observed, its publication would give unnecessary pain to some of the descendants of certain members. He devoted much time to the translation of the New Testament from the Greek, and the Old Testament from the Septuagint, which, it is said, was the first English version of the Septuagint that had been published. Biblical scholars in England praised the work very highly, as they also did Mr. Thomson's synopsis of the Four Evangelists. He wrote on various subjects in a manner both scholarly and popular. He died in Lower Merion, Montgomery County, Pa., August 16, 1824.

A DECLARATION BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED  
STATES OF AMERICA, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.—We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,—That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, lay-

ing its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.—Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.—He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.—He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly

neglected to attend to them.—He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.—He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.—He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.—He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.—He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.—He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.—He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.—He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and

sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.—He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislature.—He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.—He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:—For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:—For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:—For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:—For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:—For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:—For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:—For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:—For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:—For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in

all cases whatsoever.—He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection, and waging War against us.—He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the Lives of our people.—He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.—He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.—He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. In every stage of these Oppressions, We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered<sup>only</sup> by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people. Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our Brittish brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature

to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.—

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do.—And for the support of this Declaration, with a

firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence,  
we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our  
Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

JOHN HANCOCK

Josiah Bartlett	Geo. Taylor
W <sup>m</sup> Whipple	James Wilson
Sam <sup>l</sup> Adams	Geo. Ross
John Adams	Cæsar Rodney
Rob <sup>t</sup> Treat Paine	Geo Read
Elbridge Gerry	Tho M:Kean
Step. Hopkins	Samuel Chase
William Ellery	W <sup>m</sup> Paca
Roger Sherman	Tho <sup>s</sup> Stone
Sam <sup>el</sup> Huntington	Charles Carroll of Carrollton
W <sup>m</sup> Williams	George Wythe
Oliver Wolcott	Richard Henry Lee.
Matthew Thornton	Th Jefferson
W <sup>m</sup> Floyd	Benj <sup>a</sup> Harrison
Phil. Livingston	Tho <sup>s</sup> Nelson jr.
Fran <sup>s</sup> Lewis	Francis Lightfoot Lee
Lewis Morris	Carter Braxton
Rich <sup>d</sup> Stockton	W <sup>m</sup> Hooper
Jn <sup>o</sup> Witherspoon	Joseph Hewes,
Fra <sup>s</sup> Hopkinson	John Penn
John Hart	Edward Rutledge.
Abra Clark	Tho <sup>s</sup> Heyward Jun <sup>r</sup>
Rob <sup>t</sup> Morris	Thomas Lynch Jun <sup>r</sup>
Benjamin Rush	Arthur Middleton
Benj <sup>a</sup> Franklin	Button Gwinnett
John Morton	Lyman Hall
Geo Clymer	Geo Walton.
Ja <sup>s</sup> Smith.	

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